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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. )**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**M&T BANK CORPORATION**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

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(3) Filing Party:

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(4) Date Filed:

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# M&T Bank Corporation

One M&T Plaza

Buffalo, New York 14203

Notice of 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders

and

Proxy Statement

# M&T Bank Corporation

One M&T Plaza  
Buffalo, New York 14203

March 4, 2016

Dear Shareholder,

You are cordially invited to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of M&T Bank Corporation. The Annual Meeting will be held on the 10th Floor of One M&T Plaza in Buffalo, New York, on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 11:00 a.m., EDT.

Shareholders will be asked to vote on the following matters:

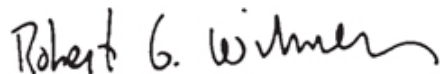
1. election of 16 directors for one-year terms and until their successors have been elected and qualified;
2. advisory approval of the compensation of M&T Bank Corporation's Named Executive Officers;
3. ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of M&T Bank Corporation for the year ending December 31, 2016; and
4. transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournments thereof.

Information about these matters can be found in the proxy statement.

Your vote is important. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please indicate your vote by promptly executing and returning the enclosed proxy card, or by voting by telephone or via the Internet. Shareholders of record as of the close of business on February 29, 2016, the record date, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting.

We urge you to vote for the election of the 16 nominees, to approve the compensation of M&T Bank Corporation's Named Executive Officers, and to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of M&T Bank Corporation for the year ending December 31, 2016.

Sincerely,



ROBERT G. WILMERS  
Chairman of the Board and  
Chief Executive Officer

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON APRIL 19, 2016**

The Proxy Statement and 2015 Annual Report of M&T Bank Corporation (“M&T”) are available at <http://ir.mandtbank.com/proxy.cfm>.

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT**

It is important that your shares be represented and voted at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. If your M&T shares of common stock are registered in your name with M&T’s transfer agent, Computershare, you are considered to be a “shareholder of record” and your proxy materials were sent to you directly. You may vote in person at the meeting. You may also vote your shares by telephone, over the Internet or by mailing your signed proxy card in the postage-paid envelope you were provided. If your M&T shares of common stock are held in a brokerage account, by a trustee, or by another nominee, then that intermediary is considered the shareholder of record and the shares are considered held in “street name.” M&T provided its proxy materials to that intermediary for distribution to you along with its voting instruction card. As the beneficial owner of the shares, you have the right to direct your broker, trustee or other nominee on how to vote and you are also invited to attend the meeting. However, if you are a beneficial owner, you are not the shareholder of record and you may not vote your street name shares in person at the meeting unless you follow the instructions from your nominee, which includes obtaining a legal proxy from the intermediary that holds your shares. Please refer to the information your broker, trustee or other nominee provided to you to determine what voting options are available to you. New York Stock Exchange rules do not permit brokers to vote uninstructed shares on “non-routine” matters such as the election of directors, executive compensation and other “significant matters” unless they have received voting instructions from the beneficial owner. M&T Bank Corporation therefore encourages shareholders whose shares are held in street name to promptly direct their vote for all of the agenda items using the proxy instruction card sent by the broker, bank or other intermediary.

**DISCONTINUE MULTIPLE MAILINGS**

If you are a shareholder of record and have more than one account in your name or at the same address as other shareholders of record, you may authorize M&T Bank Corporation to discontinue mailings of multiple annual report and proxy statements. To discontinue multiple mailings, or to reinstate multiple mailings, please either mail your request to M&T Bank Corporation, Attention: Shareholder Relations, One M&T Plaza, Buffalo, New York 14203, or send your request to Shareholder Relations via electronic mail at [ir@mtb.com](mailto:ir@mtb.com).

# M&T Bank Corporation

One M&T Plaza  
Buffalo, New York 14203

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>TIME</b>              | 11:00 a.m., EDT, on Tuesday, April 19, 2016  |
| <b>PLACE</b>             | One M&T Plaza<br>10th Floor<br>Buffalo, New York 14203   |
| <b>ITEMS OF BUSINESS</b> | (1) Election of 16 directors for one-year terms and until their successors have been elected and qualified.<br>(2) Advisory approval of the compensation of M&T Bank Corporation's Named Executive Officers.<br>(3) Ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of M&T Bank Corporation for the year ending December 31, 2016.<br>(4) Transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournments thereof.  |
| <b>RECORD DATE</b>       | Shareholders of record of M&T's common stock at 5:00 p.m., EST, on February 29, 2016 are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting.  |
| <b>VOTING</b>            | It is important that your shares be represented and voted at the Annual Meeting. Shareholders of record can vote their shares by proxy by using one of the following methods: complete, sign, date and promptly return the enclosed proxy card in the postage-paid envelope furnished for that purpose; vote via telephone; or vote via the Internet using the instructions on the enclosed proxy card. Any proxy may be revoked in the manner described in the accompanying proxy statement, or as instructed by an intermediary prior to its exercise at the Annual Meeting. Any shareholder of record present at the Annual Meeting may withdraw his or her proxy and vote personally on any matter properly brought before the Annual Meeting. |

March 4, 2016



MARIE KING  
Corporate Secretary

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# M&T Bank Corporation

## PROXY STATEMENT

### GENERAL INFORMATION – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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#### **Why am I being provided this proxy statement?**

M&T Bank Corporation (“we” or “M&T”) is providing this proxy statement to you because the Board of Directors is soliciting your proxy to vote your shares of M&T common stock at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Annual Meeting”), or any adjournment or adjournments thereof. This proxy statement contains information about matters to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting and certain other information required by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”).

We are first mailing this proxy statement and the accompanying form of proxy to M&T common shareholders of record on or about March 4, 2016. A copy of M&T Bank Corporation’s Annual Report for 2015, including financial statements, accompanies this proxy statement, but is not part of the proxy solicitation materials.

#### **Where will the Annual Meeting be held and when?**

The Annual Meeting will be held on the 10th floor of One M&T Plaza in Buffalo, New York, on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 11:00 a.m., EDT. M&T’s mailing address is One M&T Plaza, Buffalo, New York 14203, and its telephone number is (716) 842-5138.

#### **Who is entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting?**

Common shareholders of record at 5:00 p.m., EST, on February 29, 2016 are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. On February 29, 2016, M&T had outstanding 159,109,841 shares of common stock, \$0.50 par value per share. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote. Shares may not be voted at the Annual Meeting unless the owner is present or represented by proxy, as more fully explained in this proxy statement.

#### **How can I give my proxy or vote?**

You can give your proxy by completing and returning the physical proxy card accompanying this proxy statement or vote by following the telephone or Internet voting procedures described on the proxy card. The telephone and Internet voting procedures are designed to authenticate that you are a shareholder by use of a control number and allow you to confirm that your instructions have been properly recorded. If you are a shareholder of record, the method by which you vote will not limit your right to vote at the Annual Meeting if you later decide to attend in person.

#### **May I revoke my proxy?**

Depending on how you hold your shares (shareholder of record or beneficial owner), determines how and when you may revoke your proxy. A shareholder of record may revoke a

proxy that has been previously given at any time before it is exercised by giving written notice of such revocation or by delivering a later dated proxy, in either case, to the Corporate Secretary, at One M&T Plaza, Buffalo, New York 14203, or by voting in person at the Annual Meeting. A beneficial owner must follow the instructions from his or her broker, bank or other intermediary to revoke his or her previously given proxy.

### **How will my proxy be voted?**

Your proxy will be voted in accordance with the direction you provide, if any. If you sign, date and return your proxy card but do not specify how you want to vote your shares, your shares will be voted FOR the election as directors of the 16 persons named under the section titled “NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR”; FOR approving the compensation of M&T Bank Corporation’s Named Executive Officers; and FOR ratifying the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of M&T for the year ending December 31, 2016.

### **What is required for a quorum at the Annual Meeting?**

The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the outstanding common stock constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. Broker non-votes will be counted as being present or represented at the Annual Meeting for purposes of establishing a quorum, but, under NYSE rules, brokers will not be permitted to vote in the election of directors, or on the advisory vote to approve the compensation of M&T Bank Corporation’s Named Executive Officers unless specific voting instructions are provided to the broker. We therefore encourage beneficial owners of shares whose shares are held in street name to direct their vote for all agenda items on the form of proxy or instruction card sent by his or her broker, bank or other intermediary.

### **What happens if an incumbent director nominee does not receive a majority of votes in favor of his or her election?**

Pursuant to M&T’s Amended and Restated Bylaws, in an uncontested election of directors, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast in favor or against the nominee is required for the election of such nominee as a director, assuming a quorum is present or represented at the Annual Meeting. Under these circumstances, if an incumbent director does not receive the required vote, that director would be required to tender his or her resignation to the Board of Directors for consideration in accordance with the Amended and Restated Bylaws.

### **What approval is necessary to approve Proposals 2 and 3?**

For each of Proposals 2 and 3, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting is required to approve the compensation of M&T Bank Corporation’s Named Executive Officers and to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of M&T for the year ending December 31, 2016.

An abstention will not constitute a vote cast and therefore will not affect the outcome of the vote on the election of directors, the advisory vote to approve the compensation of M&T Bank Corporation’s Named Executive Officers, or the ratification of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of M&T for the year ending December 31, 2016.

Broker non-votes will not constitute votes cast on the election of directors or the approval of the compensation of M&T Bank Corporation's Named Executive Officers, and therefore will have no effect on the outcome of either of these proposals.

### **Who is paying for the solicitation of proxies?**

M&T will bear the cost of soliciting proxies in the accompanying form of proxy. We are making this solicitation by mail, by telephone and in person using the services of some employees of M&T or its subsidiaries at nominal cost. We will reimburse banks, brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for expenses they incur in sending proxy materials to beneficial owners of M&T's common stock.

### **How do I propose actions for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders?**

In order for a shareholder proposal for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be eligible for inclusion in M&T's proxy statement, we must receive it at our principal executive offices no later than November 4, 2016. You must provide your proposal to us in writing and your notice must contain the information required by M&T's Amended and Restated Bylaws.

M&T's Amended and Restated Bylaws state that no business may be brought before an annual meeting of shareholders unless it is specified in the notice of the meeting or is otherwise brought before the meeting by the Board of Directors or by a shareholder entitled to receive notice of and to vote who has delivered notice to M&T (containing the information specified in the Amended and Restated Bylaws) not less than 120 days prior to the anniversary of the date on which M&T first mailed its proxy materials for the preceding year's annual meeting of shareholders. These requirements are separate from and in addition to the SEC's requirements that a shareholder must meet in order to have a shareholder proposal included in M&T's proxy statement. A shareholder wishing to submit a proposal for consideration at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, either under SEC Rule 14a-8 or otherwise, should do so no later than November 4, 2016.

### **What do I have to bring in order to attend the Annual Meeting in person?**

In order to be admitted to the Annual Meeting, you will need to bring a valid photo ID or other satisfactory proof of identification. If you are a beneficial owner, you must also bring evidence of your M&T share ownership that can include a notice from your broker, bank or other intermediary regarding the availability of these proxy materials or a recent account statement or letter from the bank, broker or other intermediary that holds your shares and confirms your beneficial ownership of those shares.

## PROPOSAL 1

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Upon the recommendation of the Nomination, Compensation and Governance Committee the (“NCG Committee”), the Board of Directors recommends the following 16 persons for election as directors of M&T, to hold office until the 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their successors have been elected and qualified. Thirteen of the 16 nominees listed below were elected at the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

If any nominee for any reason, becomes unavailable for election, or if a vacancy occurs before the election (which events are not expected), it is intended that the shares represented by the proxies will be voted for such other person, if any, as the NCG Committee shall designate.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE  
FOR ELECTION OF EACH OF THE 16 NOMINEES.**

Each nominee’s business experience, including occupation, current public company directorships, and public company directorships held at any time during the past five years is provided. Additionally, the specific experience, qualifications and skills, including education, of each nominee that was considered by the NCG Committee are listed. The information with respect to each nominee is as of December 31, 2015, and includes each nominee’s affiliations with M&T’s subsidiary banks, Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company (also known as “M&T Bank”) and Wilmington Trust, National Association (“Wilmington Trust, N.A.”).

The Board of Directors believes that the experience, qualifications and skills of each of the director nominees contribute to an effective and well-functioning board providing oversight of M&T’s business and management.

### NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR

**BRENT D. BAIRD**

**Chairman of the  
Nomination, Compensation  
and Governance Committee**

**Member of the Executive  
Committee**

**Director since 1983**

Mr. Baird, age 76, is a private investor. He is the former President and Chief Executive Officer of Merchants Group Inc. and a former general partner of Trubee, Collins & Co., Inc. Mr. Baird served as a director of Todd Shipyards Corporation (NYSE: TOD) from 1992 to 2011. He serves as a director of M&T Bank, as a member of its Executive Committee and its Trust and Investment Committee, and as a member of M&T Bank’s Directors Advisory Council-New York City/Long Island Division.

Experience, Qualifications and Skills

Mr. Baird has significant investment management and corporate governance expertise having served in numerous executive positions in public and private companies. Mr. Baird holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honors from Williams College.

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**C. ANGELA BONTEMPO**

**Chair of the  
Audit Committee**

**Director since 1991**

Ms. Bontempo, age 75, is a self-employed health care consultant. She serves as a consultant to Community Health Systems, Inc. (NYSE: CYH), to Enterprise Analysis Corp. in Stamford, Connecticut and to Moretti Consulting Group, LLC in Orchard Park, New York. She formerly served as President and Chief Executive Officer and as a director of Saint Vincent Health System, located in Erie, Pennsylvania, as President and Chief Executive Officer of Bryant & Stratton College, a system of proprietary colleges headquartered in Buffalo, New York, as Senior Vice President and Executive Director of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York and as a director of iPorta Corporation in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Ms. Bontempo is a director of M&T Bank and the Chair of its Examining Committee.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Ms. Bontempo has extensive experience overseeing financial personnel and auditing and financial reporting. She has considerable executive leadership and decision-making skills gained through her positions at not-for-profit organizations, privately-held companies and professional associations. Ms. Bontempo holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Theology from St. Joseph's College, an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing from Maria College, a Master of Science in Microbiology from Howard University and a Master of Health Administration from St. Louis University. She further holds an Advanced Certification in Healthcare Financial Management from Yale University.

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**ROBERT T. BRADY**

**Vice Chairman of the Board  
of Directors**

**Member of the Nomination,  
Compensation and  
Governance Committee**

**Director since 1994**

Mr. Brady, age 75, serves as Vice Chairman of M&T's Board of Directors and as its lead independent director. He is the former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Moog Inc. (NYSE: MOG.A), a worldwide manufacturer of control systems and components for aircraft, spacecraft, automated machinery and medical equipment. He served as Moog's Executive Chairman from 2011 until his retirement on January 31, 2014. He is a director of Astronics Corporation (NASDAQ: ATRO) and Multisorb Technologies, a privately held company that specializes in packaging technology located in Buffalo, New York. Mr. Brady is also a director of CUBRC, Inc., a research, development, testing and systems integration company located in Buffalo, New York. He served as a director of Seneca Foods Corporation (NASDAQGS: SENE) from 1989 to 2011 and as a director of National Fuel Gas Company (NYSE: NFG) from 1995 to 2014. He is a director of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York and serves on the University at Buffalo Council. Mr. Brady is a director of M&T Bank.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Mr. Brady is an experienced and successful business leader with a track record of helping companies innovate, grow and create jobs. He brings insight into risk management, operational risk and strategic planning. In addition to his significant leadership experience with several public companies, Mr. Brady has considerable corporate governance experience. Mr. Brady holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Master of Business Administration from the Harvard Business School.

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**T. JEFFERSON CUNNINGHAM III**

**Member of the Risk Committee**

**Director since 2001**

Mr. Cunningham, age 73, is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Magnolia Capital Management, Ltd., a registered investment adviser in Cold Springs, New York. He is the former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Premier National Bancorp, Inc. and Premier National Bank, and of Premier's predecessors. Mr. Cunningham had a distinguished career in various executive-level positions with several U.S. and European financial institutions. Mr. Cunningham is a trustee of Open Space Institute, an environmental conservation organization dedicated to protecting significant landscapes in New York State, where he serves on several committees. He is an advisory director of the Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley in Poughkeepsie, New York. He is a director of M&T Bank, a member of its Risk Committee, and the Chairman of M&T Bank's Director Advisory Council-Hudson Valley Division.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Mr. Cunningham has extensive experience with commercial and investment banking strategy, both domestically and internationally. He brings in-depth knowledge of risk management, fiduciary oversight responsibility and a valuable international perspective to M&T's business activities. Mr. Cunningham holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Cornell University and a Master of Business Administration from Stanford University.

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**MARK J. CZARNECKI**

**President and Chief Operating Officer**

**Director since 2007**

Mr. Czarnecki, age 60, is President and Chief Operating Officer and a director of M&T, and is President and Chief Operating Officer and a director of M&T Bank, and Chairman of its Trust and Investment Committee. Mr. Czarnecki is Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer of Wilmington Trust, N.A. He is a member of its Trust and Investment Committee, a member of its Loan Committee and a member of its Investment Committee. Mr. Czarnecki serves as a director and officer of a number of principal subsidiaries of M&T Bank. He served as Chairman of the New York State Banker's Association in 2010. He is active in community organizations and serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of M&T Bank's partner school, Westminster Community Charter School, as a Vice Chairman of the University at Buffalo Council and as a director of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Mr. Czarnecki joined M&T Bank in 1977 in the branch banking system. He has served M&T in a number of executive and managerial positions in retail banking, business banking and commercial lending, as well as in investment management, marketing, credit, audit and risk, which have provided him with valuable institutional knowledge. He brings extensive regional banking insight and a unique perspective on M&T. Mr. Czarnecki holds a Bachelor of Science from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a Master of Business Administration from Canisius College.

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**GARY N. GEISEL**

**Member of the Nomination,  
Compensation and  
Governance Committee**

**Member of the Risk  
Committee**

**Director since 2009**

Mr. Geisel, age 67, is the former Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Provident Bankshares Corporation and Provident Bank. Mr. Geisel previously served as Chairman of the Board of Saint Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland having served on its Finance, Governance, Compensation and Executive committees. He is a former director of Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake and served as its Chairman and on the Executive Committee. Mr. Geisel is a director of Annapolis Life Care, Inc., a continuing-care retirement community operator in Annapolis, Maryland, where he serves as a member of its Finance and Audit Committee. Further, he is a member of the Finance Committee of the Baltimore Community Foundation. He is a director of M&T Bank and a member of its Risk Committee and serves as Chairman of M&T Bank's Directors Advisory Council-Baltimore-Washington Division.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Mr. Geisel brings financial acumen with over 30 years of experience in the banking industry as well as exceptional executive leadership. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Duquesne University and completed banking programs at the Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

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**RICHARD A. GROSSI**

**Member of the Audit  
Committee**

**Director since October 2015**

Mr. Grossi, age 68, is the former Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland where he served as such from 1996 to 2015. He currently serves as a consultant for Johns Hopkins Medicine and other organizations. Mr. Grossi has more than 40 years of experience in higher education and the health care industry. He is a director of M&T Bank and is a member of its Examining Committee.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Mr. Grossi's areas of expertise include financial analysis and management, organizational design and development, human resource management, systems selection and implementation, operational and financial responsibility for large functional units, and responsibility for major facility construction and control. He is experienced in strategic planning, cash management and treasury, new business initiatives, trustee interactions in financial decisions, oversight of budgeting and capital planning, general accounting and financial reporting. Mr. Grossi holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration in Financial Management from Pace University.

**JOHN D. HAWKE, JR.**

**Chairman of the Risk Committee**

**Director since 2012**

Mr. Hawke, age 82, is Senior Counsel with the Washington, D.C. based law firm of Arnold & Porter LLP, where he previously served as a partner and as Chairman of the firm, having established one of the nation's premier financial services practices. He has extensive experience with financial regulation and bank supervision, having served as the Comptroller of the Currency from 1998 to 2004, Under-Secretary of the Treasury for Domestic Finance from 1995 to 1998, and as General Counsel to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System from 1975 to 1978. Mr. Hawke is a director of M&T Bank and serves as Chairman of its Risk Committee.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

As Comptroller of the Currency, Mr. Hawke was a member of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. He taught courses on federal regulation of banking and bank acquisitions at the Georgetown University Law Center and at the Morin Center for Banking Law Studies at Boston University School of Law. Mr. Hawke has published extensively on matters relating to the regulation of banking institutions. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Yale University and a Bachelor of Laws from Columbia University Law School.

**PATRICK W.E. HODGSON**

**Member of the Audit Committee**

**Member of the Executive Committee**

**Director since 1987**

Mr. Hodgson, age 75, has served as President of Cinnamon Investments Limited, a private investment company with securities holdings, located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, since 1981. From 1964 to 1989 he was the Chief Executive Officer of London Machinery Co., Ltd., a private manufacturer of construction machinery. From 1993 to 1998 he was the Chief Executive Officer of Todd Shipyards Corporation (NYSE: TOD) in Seattle, Washington and served as its Chairman from 1993 to 2011. He was a director of EGI Financial Holdings Inc., a publicly traded company in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, from 2012 to 2014, where he served as a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and Investment Committee. Mr. Hodgson is a director and member of the Investment Committee of Stornoway Capital Partners located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and serves as a director of Fairwater Capital Corporation, a privately owned investment holding company located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He is a director of M&T Bank and a member of its Executive Committee, Examining Committee, and Trust and Investment Committee.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Mr. Hodgson has significant business acumen, including considerable securities experience as well as past audit committee membership on three publicly held companies. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business.



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**RICHARD G. KING**

**Member of the Audit Committee**

**Director since 2000**

Mr. King, age 71, is Chairman of the Executive Committee of Utz Quality Foods, Inc., a manufacturer and distributor of salted snack foods located in Hanover, Pennsylvania. He previously served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Utz. Mr. King is the former Chief Executive Officer of C&J Clark Retail, Inc., a privately held footwear manufacturer and retailer based in Hanover, Pennsylvania. He currently serves as a director of Hanover Shoe Farms, Inc. in Hanover, Pennsylvania and WITF, Inc., a media and broadcasting company providing programs and services in Central Pennsylvania, where he is a member of the Finance and Enterprises Committees. Until 2014, Mr. King served as a director of High Industries, Inc., located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, a diversified group of privately held businesses that serves customers throughout the Mid- Atlantic and Midwest. He served on its Investment, Governance and Compensation Committees. He is a director of M&T Bank and a member of its Examining Committee and its Trust and Investment Committee.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Mr. King brings substantial leadership experience having served in several executive positions, as well as Chairman of the Snack Food Association. He gained valuable banking industry experience from serving as a director and member of the Audit Committee of Keystone Financial Inc. and Keystone Financial Bank, N.A. prior to M&T's acquisition of Keystone in 2001. Mr. King holds a Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth College and a Master of Business Administration from Columbia University.

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**NEWTON P.S. MERRILL**

**Director since June 2015**

Mr. Merrill, age 76, is a private investor with a distinguished five-decade financial services career, including in executive positions at the Bank of Boston and the Bank of New York where he was the head of Private Client Services, Personal Trust, Asset Management and Private Banking activities at his retirement in 2003. He serves as Chairman of Mellon Optima L/S Strategy Fund LLC, as a director of National Integrity Life Insurance Co., and as an Advisory Board Member and director of York Capital Management and related funds. Mr. Merrill is a trustee and Chairman Emeritus of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and a trustee and Chairman Emeritus of the Museum of the City of New York and Trustee and Treasurer of Musical Masterworks, Inc. located in Old Lyme, Connecticut. He is a director of M&T Bank and a member of its Trust and Investment Committee.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Mr. Merrill has a wide range of banking and managerial experience with financial institutions and has considerable knowledge of investment banking and venture capital as well as private client services, asset management and fiduciary responsibility. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Engineering and Applied Physics from Harvard College.

**MELINDA R. RICH**  
**Director since 2009**

Ms. Rich, age 58, is Vice Chairman of Rich Products Corporation, a privately owned global manufacturer and supplier of frozen foods headquartered in Buffalo, New York. She is Chair of Rich Products Corporation's Finance and Audit Committee, and Compensation Committee, and a member of its Executive Committee. Ms. Rich is President of Rich Entertainment Group, which consists of various businesses in the sports, entertainment and restaurant industries. She is a director of Rich Holdings, Inc., as well as several other entities within the Rich Products Corporation family of companies. Ms. Rich is a director of Grove Entertainment, a production company located in New York City. She serves as a trustee of Cleveland Clinic located in Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Rich serves as a director of a number of charitable foundations, including Rich Family Foundation, DreamCatcher Foundation, Inc. and Cleveland Rock and Roll, Inc./ Rock and Roll Hall of Fame & Museum. She is a director of M&T Bank.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Ms. Rich brings considerable knowledge of executive compensation matters, leadership roles and service to civic and community organizations. She provides a valuable international perspective on public policy, societal and economic issues. Ms. Rich holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Colorado. She received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the Culinary Institute of America, an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from D'Youville College and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Canisius College.

**ROBERT E. SADLER, JR.**

**Member of the Risk  
Committee**

**Director since 1999**

Mr. Sadler, age 70, has been a consultant to M&T since 2010. He joined M&T Bank in 1983 and held a number of executive positions, including Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors from 2007 until his retirement in June 2010. From June 2005 to January 2007, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of M&T and M&T Bank. He serves as a director of Delaware North Companies, Inc., a privately held global hospitality and food service company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. Mr. Sadler served as a director of Gibraltar Industries, Inc. (NASDAQ: ROCK) from 2004 to 2015 and as a director of Security Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York until 2015. He is a director of M&T Bank and a member of its Risk Committee and its Trust and Investment Committee. Mr. Sadler is a member of the Trust and Investment Committee of Wilmington Trust, N.A. and serves as the Chairman of the Florida Advisory Council of Wilmington Trust, N.A.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Mr. Sadler brings in-depth knowledge of the financial services industry including significant financial experience and valuable institutional knowledge through his executive roles with M&T. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Washington and Lee University and a Master of Business Administration from Emory University.

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**DENIS J. SALAMONE**

**Director since  
November 2015**

Mr. Salamone, age 62, joined M&T's Board of Directors effective with the closing of M&T's acquisition of Hudson City Bancorp, Inc. and Hudson City Savings Bank ("Hudson City") in November 2015. He served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Hudson City from September 2014 until November 1, 2015. Mr. Salamone joined Hudson City in 2001 as Senior Executive Vice President and served on its Board of Directors. Between 2002 and 2014, he held several senior executive positions at Hudson City, including President and Chief Operating Officer. Prior to joining Hudson City, Mr. Salamone was an accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for 26 years, 16 years as a partner where he served as the Global Financial Services leader for Audit and Business Advisory Services. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and a member of the New York State Society of CPAs. Mr. Salamone serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees for St. Francis College located in Brooklyn Heights, New York, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ridgewood, New Jersey YMCA, and as a trustee of the Valley Hospital and Table to Table in Northern, New Jersey. He is a director of M&T Bank.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Mr. Salamone has more than 35 years of experience in the financial services industry and brings significant accounting skills and knowledge of financial reporting and risk management. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from St. Francis College.

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**HERBERT L. WASHINGTON**

**Member of the Audit  
Committee**

**Director since 1996**

Mr. Washington, age 65, has been since 1980, President of H.L.W. Fast Track, Inc., a fast food restaurant enterprise located in Youngstown, Ohio, which owns and operates 23 McDonald's franchises in Ohio and Pennsylvania. He served as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York ("FRBNY") Buffalo Branch Board from 1992 to 1993. Mr. Washington was appointed as a director to the FRBNY for a three-year term in 1993. He is a director of the Youngstown Chamber of Commerce and of the Big Ten Athletic Advisory Committee. Mr. Washington is a director of M&T Bank and is a member of its Examining Committee.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Mr. Washington brings extensive business acumen, valuable entrepreneurial skills and financial regulation experience. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing Management from Michigan State University.

**ROBERT G. WILMERS**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Chairman of the Board of Directors**

**Chairman of the Executive Committee**

**Director since 1982**

Mr. Wilmers, age 81, serves as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of M&T and of M&T Bank. He has held the post of Chief Executive Officer for more than 30 years, and also served as Chairman of the Board for most of those years. Mr. Wilmers serves as Chairman of M&T Bank's Executive Committee and is a member of its Trust and Investment Committee. He served as Chairman of the Empire State Development Corporation from 2008 to 2009, as Chairman of the New York State Bankers Association in 2002 and as a director of the FRBNY from 1993 to 1998.

Experience, Skills and Qualifications

Mr. Wilmers brings substantial managerial and leadership experience having led M&T through multiple economic cycles. As Chief Executive Officer of M&T Bank, he transformed M&T from a bank with \$2 billion in assets to a \$122.8 billion financial services company, overseeing 24 acquisitions and expanding M&T's footprint and business lines. Mr. Wilmers has received many honors and awards for his service to the banking industry, as well as for his leadership and contributions to the Buffalo, New York community. He holds honorary degrees from Canisius College, Niagara University and the State University of New York at Buffalo. Mr. Wilmers graduated from Harvard College and the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

## DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

The following table sets forth M&T's 2015 compensation structure, effective as of April 1, 2015, for directors' fees (for directors who are not salaried officers of M&T or its subsidiaries):

### Elements of 2015 Directors' Fees

| Fees   | Compensation |
|--|--------------|
| Annual Board Retainer                              | \$ 85,000    |
| Board Attendance Fees – Per Meeting Attended       | 3,000        |
| Committee Attendance Fees – Per Meeting Attended   | 3,000        |
| Annual Audit Committee Chair Retainer              | 20,000       |
| Annual Audit Committee (other than Chair) Retainer | 10,000       |
| Annual Risk Committee Chair Retainer               | 20,000       |
| Annual Risk Committee (other than Chair) Retainer  | 10,000       |
| Meetings with Regulators – Per Meeting Attended    | 3,000        |

Compensation is paid at the end of each calendar quarter in an amount equal to one quarter of a director's annual retainer and the meeting fees earned during such quarter. All directors are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses incidental to their attendance at meetings. The Board of Directors has determined that no fees (retainer, attendance or otherwise) will be paid to a director who is a salaried officer of M&T or any of its subsidiaries, or where such individual receives payment for services to M&T or any of its subsidiaries immediately after ceasing to be a salaried officer.

The following table sets forth the compensation of M&T's directors in fiscal year 2015.

### 2015 Director Compensation

| Name                        | Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (1) | Stock Awards(2) | Option Awards | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Comp. | Changes in Pension Value and Non-Qualified Deferred Comp. Earnings | All Other Comp.          | Total      |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------|
| Brent D. Baird              | \$ 209                          | \$ 183,291      | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 183,500 |
| C. Angela Bontempo          | \$ 90,183                       | \$ 89,817       | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 180,000 |
| Robert T. Brady             | \$ 66,651                       | \$ 66,349       | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 133,000 |
| T. Jefferson Cunningham III | \$ 91,690                       | \$ 91,310       | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 183,000 |
| Gary N. Geisel              | \$ 113,142                      | \$ 112,758      | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 225,900 |
| Richard A. Grossi           | \$ 16,042                       | \$ 15,875       | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 31,917  |
| John D. Hawke, Jr.          | \$ 102,239                      | \$ 101,761      | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 204,000 |
| Patrick W.E. Hodgson        | \$ 81,746                       | \$ 81,254       | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 163,000 |
| Richard G. King             | \$ 80,245                       | \$ 79,755       | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 160,000 |
| Newton P.S. Merrill         | \$ 34,816                       | \$ 34,434       | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 69,250  |
| Melinda R. Rich             | \$ 54,640                       | \$ 54,360       | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 109,000 |
| Robert E. Sadler, Jr.       | \$ -                            | \$ -            | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$200,000 <sup>(3)</sup> | \$ 200,000 |
| Denis J. Salamone           | \$ 8,684                        | \$ 8,483        | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 17,167  |
| Herbert L. Washington       | \$ 74,678                       | \$ 74,322       | \$ -          | \$ -                            | \$ -   | \$ -                     | \$ 149,000 |

- (1) Pursuant to the terms of the M&T Bank Corporation 2008 Directors' Stock Plan, each director can elect to receive payment of his or her annual compensation in cash, in shares of M&T common stock, or in a combination of cash and shares of common stock for services as a director or advisory director of M&T and its subsidiaries. The amounts listed in this column show only the amount of fees paid in cash.

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- (2) Reflects fees paid in the form of M&T common stock, which is paid at the end of each calendar quarter. The value of M&T common stock paid is based on the grant date fair value, which equals the value as of the last business day of each calendar quarter on which the shares of common stock are quoted on the NYSE.
- (3) In accordance with the policy of the Board of Directors, Mr. Sadler is not eligible to receive directors' fees due to his service to M&T as a paid consultant. The amount shown represents compensation Mr. Sadler earned in 2015 under a two-year consulting arrangement with M&T that renewed on July 1, 2014.

### **M&T Bank Corporation 2008 Directors' Stock Plan**

Pursuant to the terms of the M&T Bank Corporation 2008 Directors' Stock Plan, each director can elect to receive payment of his or her annual compensation in cash, in shares of M&T common stock, or in a combination of cash and shares of M&T common stock for services as a director or advisory director of M&T and its subsidiaries. The number of shares of M&T common stock paid is determined by dividing the amount of such compensation payable in shares of M&T common stock by the closing price of M&T's common stock on the NYSE on the business day immediately preceding the day the compensation is payable. Shares of M&T common stock received in payment of fees vest immediately upon grant.

### **M&T Bank Directors' Fees**

M&T directors who also serve as directors of M&T Bank, if not salaried officers of M&T or its subsidiaries, receive attendance fees for each M&T Bank board, council or committee meeting attended, unless any such meeting is held concurrently with a meeting of the M&T board or committee, of which they are also a member. Except as described below, such attendance fees and the cash versus stock allocations are identical to the schedule of fees paid to directors of M&T for board and committee meetings attended described above.

Mr. Baird, as a member of the Directors Advisory Council of the New York City/Long Island Division of M&T Bank, received an annual retainer of \$10,000 and a fee of \$1,750 for each meeting he attended. Mr. Cunningham, as Chairman of the Directors Advisory Council of the Hudson Valley Division of M&T Bank, received a fee of \$1,000 for each meeting he attended. Mr. Geisel, as Chairman of the Directors Advisory Council of the Baltimore-Washington Division of M&T Bank, received a fee of \$300 for each meeting he attended. Mr. Sadler is a member of the Wilmington Trust, N.A. Florida Advisory Council but does not receive fees for attending these meetings. All directors of M&T Bank are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses incidental to their attendance at meetings.

### **Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Arrangements for Directors**

Mr. King is a participant in the Keystone Financial Director Fee Plan that was assumed by M&T in connection with its acquisition of Keystone. The plan is a nonqualified, unfunded plan under which a Keystone director could elect to defer directors' fees in the form of phantom shares of Keystone's common stock. Upon the acquisition of Keystone, the right of participants to receive Keystone common stock was converted into the right to receive M&T common stock. Mr. King will receive annual distributions from his plan account over a five-year period commencing upon his resignation or retirement as a director of M&T.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OF M&T BANK CORPORATION

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### Corporate Governance Standards

The Board of Directors believes that the purpose of sound and effective corporate governance is to ensure that shareholder value is maximized in a manner that is consistent with legal requirements and the highest standards of business ethics and integrity. The Board has consistently adhered to corporate governance standards that the Board believes promotes this purpose. The Board initially adopted corporate governance practices in 1997 and adopted formal corporate governance standards in 2003. Annually, the Board evaluates, in light of best practices and regulatory guidance, its Corporate Governance Standards.

The Board last amended its Corporate Governance Standards in October 2015. The current Corporate Governance Standards are available on M&T's website at [www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm](http://www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm). These standards address, among other things, director qualifications and responsibilities, board committees, director compensation and independence, director orientation and continuing education, annual performance evaluations, corporate disclosure policy, controls and procedures regarding financial reporting and disclosure, and codes of ethics and business conduct.

Pursuant to M&T's Amended and Restated Bylaws, in an uncontested election when a quorum is represented, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast in favor or against the election of a director nominee is required for the election of that nominee as a director. If an incumbent director in an uncontested election does not receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast in favor or against such director, that director is required to tender his or her resignation to the Board of Directors. The Board will then determine whether or not to accept such resignation, taking into account the recommendation of the NCG Committee. The Board will publicly disclose via a press release or SEC filing its decision to accept or reject such resignation within 90 days after the certification of the election results.

### Availability of Corporate Governance Standards

In addition to being available on M&T's website at [www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm](http://www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm), any shareholder can request copies of M&T's Corporate Governance Standards, the charters for each of the Audit Committee, Risk Committee, Nomination, Compensation and Governance Committee, or the Executive Committee, as well as our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, and our Code of Ethics for CEO and Senior Financial Officers. To make a request, shareholders may either mail their request to M&T Bank Corporation, Attention: Shareholder Relations, One M&T Plaza, Buffalo, New York 14203, or send such request to Shareholder Relations via electronic mail at [ir@mtb.com](mailto:ir@mtb.com).

## Codes of Ethics

M&T makes its policies and procedures available to all of our employees. These policies include our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. Further, M&T requires all employees to annually certify that they have read and are familiar with the employee policies and procedures and their content, including our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, and that they will adhere to such policies and procedures.

M&T's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics applies to our directors, officers, employees, as well as to our agents and representatives, including consultants. Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics requires that individuals avoid conflicts of interest, comply with all laws and other legal requirements, conduct business in an honest and ethical manner, and otherwise act with integrity and in the best interests of M&T. In addition, our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics expects individuals to report any observed illegal or unethical behavior and provides a retaliation-free reporting mechanism. Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is a guide to help ensure that all individuals live up to the highest ethical standards.

M&T also maintains a Code of Ethics for CEO and Senior Financial Officers that applies to our chief executive officer, chief financial officer, controller and all other senior financial officers designated by the chief financial officer from time to time. This Code of Ethics supplements our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and is intended to promote honest and ethical conduct, full and accurate financial reporting and compliance with laws, as well as other matters.

Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and the Code of Ethics for CEO and Senior Financial Officers is available on M&T's website at [www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm](http://www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm).

In accordance with SEC rules, M&T will post on its website or file a Form 8-K to report any amendment to or waiver from any provision in the Code of Ethics for CEO and Senior Financial Officers that applies to our chief executive officer, chief financial officer, controller, or persons performing similar functions.

## Board Diversity

M&T strives to foster an inclusive workplace environment that respects and values individual differences. We believe that employee diversity enhances the organization's ability to innovate, and therefore to maintain a competitive advantage. Likewise, M&T values diversity among its board members for these same reasons. Our Corporate Governance Standards provide that the NCG Committee in discharging its duties of reviewing the qualifications of director nominees, considers, among other factors, diversity, age, skills and experience in the context of the needs of the Board of Directors and regulatory obligations and guidance. In light of these guidelines, the NCG Committee endeavors to appoint a slate of nominees that represents diversity with respect to educational background, business experience, life skills, geographic representation and community involvement, as well as gender, race and national origin. The NCG Committee does not assign specific weight to any particular criteria; its goal is to identify nominees that, considered as a group, will possess the talents, skill sets and characteristics necessary for the Board of Directors to fulfill its responsibilities.



## Board Independence

Pursuant to our Corporate Governance Standards, the Board conducts an annual review of director independence. As a result of the review performed in April 2015, and as each new director was appointed to the Board, the Board determined, based upon the recommendation of the NCG Committee, that 12 of its current 16 members met the NYSE standard for independence. Of the 16 nominees standing for election as directors at the Annual Meeting, all of whom are currently serving as such, 12 continue to meet the NYSE standard for independence. Only Messrs. Wilmers, Czarnecki, Sadler and Salamone are not deemed to be independent. The Board uses categorical standards to assist it in making independence determinations. Under these standards, absent other material relationships with M&T that the Board believes jeopardize a director's independence from management, a director will be deemed to be independent unless the director or any of his or her immediate family members had any of the following relationships with M&T:

- employment during any of the past three years (as an executive officer in the case of family members);
- the receipt of more than \$120,000 per year in direct compensation (other than director fees and pension or other forms of deferred compensation for prior service not contingent upon continued service and as an executive officer in the case of family members) during any 12-month period over the past three years;
- affiliation or employment with a present or former internal or external auditor during any of the past three years;
- employment with another company where any executive officers of M&T served on that company's compensation committee during any of the past three years;
- being an executive officer of a charitable organization to which M&T contributed the greater of \$1 million or 2% of such charitable organization's consolidated gross revenues in any single fiscal year during the preceding three years; or
- being an executive officer of a company that makes payments to, or receives payments from, M&T for property or services in a fiscal year in an amount in excess of the greater of \$1 million or 2% of such other company's consolidated gross revenues.

Additionally, if any business relationship described in the last bullet point above is a lending relationship, deposit relationship, or other banking or commercial relationship between M&T Bank on the one hand, and an entity with which the director or immediate family member is affiliated by reason of being a director, officer or a significant shareholder thereof, on the other hand, such relationship must meet the following criteria: (1) it must be made in the ordinary course of business and on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with non-affiliated persons and it must not involve more than the normal risk of collectability or present other unfavorable features; and (2) with respect to extensions of credit by M&T Bank to such person or entity: (a) such extensions of credit have been made in compliance with applicable law, including Federal Reserve Board Regulation O and Section 13(k) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Exchange Act") and (b) no event of default has occurred and is continuing beyond any cure period.

In making its determination as to the independent directors, the Board considered the following categories of transactions, relationships and arrangements with directors and their immediate family members and any such person's principal business affiliations:

- for Messrs. Brady and King and Ms. Rich, ordinary course, non-preferential extensions of credit or other financial services; and
- for Mr. Hawke and Ms. Rich, payments by M&T to a director-affiliated company for services in an amount that does not exceed the greater of \$1 million or 2% of such company's consolidated gross revenues.

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the NCG Committee, considered these transactions, relationships and arrangements and, consistent with the applicable independence standards, determined that they do not impair the relevant director's independence as a director of M&T or as a member of any of the committees on which he or she serves.

The Board of Directors considers all relevant facts and circumstances and the application of the categorical standards and, based on its review of this information, affirmatively determined that, other than Messrs. Wilmers, Czarnecki, Sadler and Salamone, each member of the Board of Directors is "independent" and does not have any material relationships with M&T or its subsidiaries.

## **Board Leadership Structure**

### ***Chairman and Lead Independent Director***

Mr. Wilmers serves as M&T's Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. He has held the post of Chief Executive Officer for more than 30 years, and also served as Chairman of the Board for most of those years. In light of Mr. Wilmers' significant leadership tenure with the organization, the Board believes that this is an appropriate structure for leadership of the Board of Directors because it fosters effective decision-making and clear accountability. The Board adheres to the Corporate Governance Standards on this topic and annually elects a non-executive Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors who performs the duties of lead independent director. Mr. Brady has served as the lead independent director since June 15, 2015 when he was elected to replace Jorge G. Pereira following his retirement from the Board of Directors at the 2015 Annual Meeting. The lead independent director presides over the executive sessions of the non-management directors.

### ***Executive Sessions of the Non-Management Directors***

The non-management directors meet at regularly scheduled executive sessions without management. Mr. Brady, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and the lead independent director, presides at these meetings. In the absence of the lead independent director, the non-management directors determine which director will preside at such meetings.

## **Board's Role in Risk Oversight**

The Board of Directors has delegated its risk oversight duties to the Risk Committee. At each Board meeting, the Board receives separate reports from the Chairman of the Risk Committee as well as the Chair of the Audit Committee. Additionally, the Management Risk Committee, which is the primary management-level risk committee, and M&T's Chief Risk Officer provide regular reports directly to the Risk Committee. Further, the Audit Committee and the Risk Committee meet jointly four times a year.

## Board Attendance

The Board of Directors held 12 meetings in 2015. Each of the directors attended at least 75% of the total number of meetings of the Board and each committee on which the director served.

M&T's Corporate Governance Standards encourage all members of the Board of Directors to attend its Annual Meeting of Shareholders, absent exigent circumstances. Of the nominees standing for election at the Annual Meeting, 13 were elected at the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and each of those directors attended that meeting except for Mr. Brady.

## Communications with the Board of Directors

Any shareholder or other interested party wishing to communicate with the Board of Directors or any individual director may submit his or her written correspondence to M&T Bank Corporation's Corporate Secretary, One M&T Plaza, Buffalo, New York 14203. The Corporate Secretary may facilitate direct communications to the Board, the lead independent director, the non-management directors as a group, or individual directors, by reviewing and summarizing such communications.

### Board Committees and Member Composition During 2015

| Committee Member            | Audit                     | Executive | Nomination, Compensation and Governance | Risk                      |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|---|---------------------------|
| Brent D. Baird              |                           | ü         | Chairman                                |                           |
| C. Angela Bontempo          | Chair<br>Financial Expert |           |   |                           |
| Robert T. Brady             |                           |           | ü                                       |                           |
| T. Jefferson Cunningham III |                           |           |   | Risk Management<br>Expert |
| Mark J. Czarnecki           |                           |           |   |                           |
| Gary N. Geisel              |                           |           | ü                                       | Risk Management<br>Expert |
| Richard A. Grossi           | ü                         |           |   |                           |
| John D. Hawke, Jr.          |                           |           |   | Chairman                  |
| Patrick W.E. Hodgson        | Financial Expert          | ü         |   |                           |
| Richard G. King             | ü                         |           |   |                           |
| Newton P.S. Merrill         |                           |           |   |                           |
| Melinda R. Rich             |                           |           |   |                           |
| Robert E. Sadler, Jr.       |                           |           |   | ü                         |
| Denis J. Salamone           |                           |           |   |                           |
| Herbert L. Washington       | ü                         |           |   |                           |
| Robert G. Wilmers           |                           | Chairman  |   |                           |

## Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has the authority and responsibility to engage and discharge the independent registered public accounting firm, pre-approve all audit and non-audit services to be provided by such firm, review the plan and results of the auditing engagement, review management's evaluation of the adequacy of M&T's system of internal controls over financial reporting, direct and supervise investigations into matters within the scope of its duties, and

perform the duties set forth in its written charter and such other duties as are required by applicable laws or securities exchange rules. In addition, the Audit Committee serves as the Examining Committee for Wilmington Trust, N.A. and reviews the activities of the Examining Committee of M&T Bank. Ms. Bontempo (Chair) and Messrs. Hodgson, King and Washington served as members of the Audit Committee throughout 2015. Mr. Grossi became a member of the Audit Committee on November 17, 2015. Each currently serves as a member. The Audit Committee held six meetings in 2015.

The Audit Committee is comprised solely of directors who are not officers or employees of M&T and who the Board has determined have the requisite financial literacy to serve on the Audit Committee. In addition, the Board of Directors has determined that at least one member of the Audit Committee meets the NYSE standard of having “accounting or related financial management expertise.” The Board, based upon the recommendation of the NCG Committee, after reviewing all relevant facts and circumstances, determined that Ms. Bontempo and Mr. Hodgson each is an “audit committee financial expert.” Further, the Board determined that no member of the Audit Committee has any material relationship with M&T that might interfere with the exercise of the member’s independent judgment and that each member meets the standards of independence established by the SEC and the NYSE. See “Board Independence” under the section titled “CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OF M&T BANK CORPORATION.”

The Audit Committee is governed by a written charter approved by the Board of Directors. The Audit Committee Charter is available on M&T’s website at [www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm](http://www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm).

### **Executive Committee**

The Board of Directors has empowered its Executive Committee to act when the Board of Directors is not in session, during which time the Executive Committee possesses all of the Board’s powers in the management of the business and affairs of M&T Bank Corporation, except as otherwise limited by law. Messrs. Wilmers (Chairman), Baird and Hodgson served as members of the Executive Committee throughout 2015, and each currently serves as a member. The Executive Committee did not meet in 2015.

The Executive Committee is governed by a written charter approved by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee Charter is available on M&T’s website at [www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm](http://www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm).

### **Nomination, Compensation and Governance Committee**

The Nomination, Compensation and Governance Committee is responsible for evaluating the efforts of M&T and of the Board of Directors to maintain effective corporate governance practices and identifying candidates for election to the Board of Directors. In addition, the NCG Committee is responsible for administering M&T’s equity compensation plans and awarding new grants thereunder. It administers the M&T Bank Corporation Annual Executive Incentive Plan, the M&T Bank Corporation 2008 Directors’ Stock Plan, and the M&T Bank Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan and makes such determinations and recommendations as it deems necessary or appropriate regarding the remuneration and benefits of employees of M&T and its subsidiaries. The NCG Committee is responsible for reviewing with management the Compensation Discussion

and Analysis (“CD&A”) and providing a report recommending to the Board of Directors whether such CD&A should be included in the proxy statement. Messrs. Baird (Chairman), Brady and Geisel served as members of the NCG Committee throughout 2015, and each currently serves as a member. The NCG Committee held seven meetings in 2015.

The current Board of Directors of M&T is comprised of persons who were identified as being qualified director candidates by management and the Board of Directors. The NCG Committee considers nominees for director that are recommended by various persons or entities, including, but not limited to, non-management directors, our chief executive officer and other executive officers of M&T, and shareholders. In addition, the NCG Committee takes into account any contractual rights that persons or entities have with respect to nominees for director. In evaluating all nominees for director, including those recommended by shareholders, the NCG Committee considers whether each nominee has all the requisite experience, attributes and qualifications for board membership and not just certain specific qualities or skills.

The NCG Committee will consider candidates nominated by shareholders that are properly submitted in writing to M&T’s Corporate Secretary at One M&T Plaza, Buffalo, New York 14203 and received no later than 120 days prior to the anniversary of the date on which M&T first mailed its proxy materials for the preceding year’s Annual Meeting of Shareholders. For the 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, M&T’s Corporate Secretary must receive those nominations on or before November 4, 2016.

In considering nominees for director, including those recommended by shareholders, the NCG Committee reviews the qualifications and independence of the potential nominee in light of the composition of the current Board of Directors and its various committees. This assessment includes the potential nominee’s qualification as independent, as well as consideration of diversity, age, skills, experience, tenure, contribution and appropriate geographic balance in the context of the needs of the Board of Directors and its committees.

The NCG Committee is comprised solely of directors who are not officers or employees of M&T. The Board determined that no member of the NCG Committee has any material relationship with M&T that might interfere with the exercise of the member’s independent judgment and that each member meets the standards of independence established by the SEC and the NYSE.

The NCG Committee is governed by a written charter approved by the Board of Directors. The NCG Committee Charter is available on M&T’s website at [www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm](http://www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm).

## **Risk Committee**

The Risk Committee assists the Board of Directors in its oversight of M&T’s risk management function, including the strategies, policies, procedures and systems established by management to identify, assess, measure and manage the major risks facing M&T. In discharging its duties of risk oversight, the Risk Committee provides input to management on risk appetite, risk profile and regulatory requirements and approves the effectiveness of M&T’s risk management framework. Messrs. Hawke (Chairman), Cunningham, Geisel and Sadler served as members of the Risk Committee throughout 2015, and each currently serves as a member. The Risk Committee held 16 meetings in 2015.

Regulation YY promulgated by the Federal Reserve Board in February 2014, required that publicly traded bank holding companies with total consolidated assets of \$50 billion or more must maintain a risk committee chaired by an independent director and by January 1, 2015, include at least one member with experience in identifying, assessing and managing risk exposures of large, complex financial firms commensurate with the company's structure, risk profile complexity, activities and size. In November 2014, each of the members of the Risk Committee completed a questionnaire to assess his qualifications in accordance with the FRB standards. Based upon the responses, Messrs. Cunningham and Geisel met the criteria to qualify as a "risk management expert." Upon the recommendation of the NCG Committee, the Board appointed Messrs. Cunningham and Geisel as risk management experts of the Risk Committee effective January 1, 2015. Messrs. Cunningham and Geisel continue to serve as the risk management experts.

The Risk Committee is governed by a written charter approved by the Board of Directors. The Risk Committee Charter is available on M&T's website at [www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm](http://www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm).

## **NOMINATION, COMPENSATION AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION**

Messrs. Baird (Chairman), Brady and Geisel served as members of the Nomination, Compensation and Governance Committee throughout 2015, and each currently serves as a member. No individual, who served as a member of the NCG Committee during 2015, was at any time an officer or employee of M&T or any of its subsidiaries.

The Board of Directors has determined that all members of the NCG Committee are independent and have no financial or personal relationships with M&T requiring disclosure pursuant to SEC rules (other than director compensation, equity ownership and transactions made in the ordinary course of business with its banking and other operating subsidiaries as described in this proxy statement).

In 2015, the NCG Committee engaged McLagan, an Aon Hewitt company, to provide compensation consulting services regarding our executive officer and director compensation, including with respect to the amount and form of executive compensation. The fees for such engagement totaled \$197,587.42. M&T also engaged McLagan to provide additional services. Specifically, McLagan provided compensation consulting services and compensation survey information to management during 2015 for a total cost of \$139,025. Management engaged McLagan for these services after consultation with the NCG Committee and the NCG Committee determined that no conflict of interest existed.

**NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Set forth below are the 2015 Named Executive Officers of M&T.

| Name              | Title   | Years of Service at M&T |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Robert G. Wilmers | Chairman<br>Chief Executive Officer                 | 32                      |
| René F. Jones     | Chief Financial Officer<br>Executive Vice President | 24                      |
| Mark J. Czarnecki | President<br>Chief Operating Officer                | 38                      |
| Kevin J. Pearson  | Executive Vice President                            | 26                      |
| Richard S. Gold   | Chief Risk Officer<br>Executive Vice President      | 26                      |

**STOCK OWNERSHIP INFORMATION**

The tables below set forth direct and indirect ownership of common stock and restricted common stock by each of our directors, each of the Named Executive Officers (the “NEOs”), by all directors and executive officers as a group, and by each person who is known to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of M&T’s common stock as of February 29, 2016, together with the percentage of total shares outstanding represented by such ownership.

For purposes of these tables, beneficial ownership has been determined in accordance with the provisions of Rule 13d-3 of the Exchange Act, where, in general, a person is deemed to be the beneficial owner of a security if such person has or shares the power to vote or to direct the voting of the security or the power to dispose or to direct the disposition of the security, or if such person has the right to acquire the beneficial ownership of the security within 60 days.

**Directors and Named Executive Officers Stock Ownership**

| Name of Beneficial Owner   | Number of Shares | Percentage of Class |
|--|------------------|---------------------|
| Brent D. Baird   | 28,632           | (11)                |
| C. Angela Bontempo   | 11,738(1)        | (11)                |
| Robert T. Brady  | 15,525(2)        | (11)                |
| T. Jefferson Cunningham III                                      | 10,968           | (11)                |
| Mark J. Czarnecki  | 223,569(3)       | (11)                |
| Gary N. Geisel   | 22,305           | (11)                |
| Richard A. Grossi  | 731              | (11)                |
| John D. Hawke, Jr.   | 4,206            | (11)                |
| Patrick W.E. Hodgson   | 59,299(4)        | (11)                |
| Richard G. King  | 19,807           | (11)                |
| Newton P.S. Merrill  | 282              | (11)                |
| Melinda R. Rich  | 12,903           | (11)                |
| Robert E. Sadler, Jr.  | 115,529(5)       | (11)                |
| Denis J. Salamone  | 311,978(3)(6)    | (11)                |
| Herbert L. Washington  | 10,822(7)        | (11)                |
| Robert G. Wilmers  | 4,286,124(8)(9)  | 2.69%               |
| René F. Jones  | 93,831(3)(8)     | (11)                |
| Kevin J. Pearson   | 102,721(3)(8)    | (11)                |
| Richard S. Gold  | 82,285(3)(10)    | (11)                |
| Current directors and executive officers as a group (28 persons) | 5,799,529(3)(8)  | 3.63%               |

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- (1) Includes 400 shares held by trusts for which Ms. Bontempo is a trustee and in which she has a pecuniary interest and investment power.
- (2) Includes 8,000 shares held by a charitable remainder annuity trust of which Mr. Brady and his spouse are co-trustees and of which Mr. Brady's spouse is the current annuity beneficiary for the lesser of her life or 21 years.
- (3) Includes the following shares subject to options granted under (a) M&T's incentive compensation plans, and (b) plans of companies acquired by M&T, the obligations of which have been assumed by M&T and converted into options to receive shares of M&T common stock, all of which are currently exercisable or are exercisable within 60 days after February 29, 2016: Mr. Czarnecki – 147,104 shares; Mr. Jones – 44,132 shares; Mr. Pearson – 78,456 shares; Mr. Gold – 43,282 shares; Mr. Salamone – 211,762; and all directors and executive officers as a group – 775,952 shares. Out-of-the-money options are included in the shares presented as beneficially owned to the extent they are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days after February 29, 2016. Also includes shares of restricted common stock as of February 29, 2016 as follows: Mr. Jones – 5,076 shares; and all directors and executive officers as a group – 10,764 shares.
- (4) Includes 6,000 shares held by a close relative of Mr. Hodgson for which beneficial ownership is disclaimed. Also includes 52,000 shares owned by a corporation controlled by Mr. Hodgson which shares are held in a prime brokerage investment account with other securities that may be pledged from time to time.
- (5) Includes 26,610 shares owned by the Sadler Family Foundation, a charitable foundation formed by Mr. Sadler. Mr. Sadler is a trustee of the Sadler Family Foundation and holds voting and dispositive power over the shares owned by it.
- (6) Includes 7,917 shares that have been allocated for the benefit of Mr. Salamone under the Employee Stock Ownership Plan of Hudson City Savings Bank.
- (7) Includes 500 shares owned by a close relative of Mr. Washington.
- (8) Includes the following shares through participation in the M&T Bank Corporation Retirement Savings Plan: Mr. Wilmers – 55,361 shares; Mr. Jones – 6,607 shares; Mr. Pearson – 2,611 shares; and all directors and executive officers as a group – 79,419 shares. Such individuals retain voting and investment power over their respective shares in the Retirement Savings Plan.
- (9) See footnote (1) to the table set forth below under the section titled "Beneficial Owners Holding More Than 5% of M&T Bank Corporation's Common Stock."
- (10) Includes 2,068 shares held jointly with a close relative of Mr. Gold. Also includes 17 shares held indirectly as custodian for his son.
- (11) Less than 1%.

## **M&T Bank Corporation Insider Trading Policy**

All of M&T's directors, officers and employees are subject to M&T's Insider Trading Policy which prohibits short-term trading in M&T's securities, including but not limited to, the use of such strategies as exchange-traded options and the use of puts and calls, caps and collars and short sales. This policy effectively serves as an anti-hedging policy.



The following table sets forth certain information with respect to all persons or groups known by M&T to be the beneficial owners of more than 5% of its outstanding common stock as of February 29, 2016.

**Beneficial Owners Holding More Than 5% of M&T Bank Corporation’s Common Stock**

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owner |  | Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership | Percentage of Class |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------|
| <b>Robert G. Wilmers and Others:</b> |  |   |                     |
| Mallarme Investments Limited         | Commerce House, Wickhams Cay 1<br>Tortola, British Virgin Islands            | 3,282,880                                 | 2.06%               |
| R.I. REM Investments S.A.            | Eskildsen & Eskildsen Calle 50<br>102 Edificio Universal Planta Baja, Panama | 1,230,320                                 | less than 1%        |
| Interlaken Foundation, Inc.          | 2711 Centerville Road<br>Suite 400<br>Wilmington, DE 19808                   | 393,249                                   | less than 1%        |
| Roche Foundation, Inc.               | 2711 Centerville Road<br>Suite 400<br>Wilmington, DE 19808                   | 374,996                                   | less than 1%        |
| Elisabeth Roche Wilmers              | One M&T Plaza, 19 <sup>th</sup> Floor<br>Buffalo, NY 14203                   | 461,273                                   | less than 1%        |
| Robert G. Wilmers                    | One M&T Plaza, 19 <sup>th</sup> Floor<br>Buffalo, NY 14203                   | 4,286,124                                 | 2.69%               |
| <b>Group Total</b>                   |  | <b>9,260,597(1)</b>                       | <b>5.82%</b>        |
| Vanguard Group, Inc.                 | 100 Vanguard Blvd.<br>Malvern, PA 19355                                      | 12,633,075(2)                             | 7.94%               |
| BlackRock, Inc.                      | 55 East 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street<br>New York, NY 10055                        | 9,871,084(3)                              | 6.20%               |
| FMR LLC                              | 245 Summer Street<br>Boston, MA 02210  | 9,761,477(4)                              | 6.14%               |

- (1) The members of this group have jointly filed with the SEC a Schedule 13D, as amended, indicating that they constitute a “group” as such term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act. Each member of the group has indicated in such amended Schedule 13D or otherwise advised M&T that such member has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to the shares indicated opposite such member’s name in the table. Robert G. Wilmers, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of M&T, is also the sole director and President of the Roche Foundation, Inc., and holds sole voting and dispositive power over the shares owned by it. He is also a director and President of the Interlaken Foundation, Inc. and holds voting and dispositive power over the shares owned by it. As to Mr. Wilmers, the shares indicated in the table as being owned by him include the shares owned by the Interlaken Foundation, Inc., the Roche Foundation, Inc., and 400,000 shares owned by a limited liability company of which he is the sole member. See also the footnotes applicable to Mr. Wilmers in the table set forth above.
- (2) Vanguard Group, Inc. (“Vanguard”) filed an amended Schedule 13G with the SEC on February 10, 2016 reporting that it is deemed to be the beneficial owner of in excess of 5% of the outstanding shares of common stock. Vanguard reported that it has sole voting power with respect to 295,674 of the indicated shares, shared voting power with respect to 14,395 of the indicated shares, sole dispositive power with respect to 12,325,869 of the indicated shares, and shared dispositive power with respect to 307,206 of the indicated shares.
- (3) BlackRock, Inc. (“BlackRock”) filed an amended Schedule 13G with the SEC on February 10, 2016 reporting that it is deemed to be the beneficial owner of in excess of 5% of the outstanding shares of common stock. BlackRock reported that it has sole voting power with respect to 8,651,674 of the indicated shares and sole dispositive power with respect to all 9,871,084 of the indicated shares, which includes shares beneficially owned by certain subsidiaries of BlackRock.
- (4) FMR LLC (“FMR”) filed an amended Schedule 13G with the SEC on February 12, 2016 reporting that it is deemed to be the beneficial owner of in excess of 5% of the outstanding shares of common stock. FMR reported that it has sole voting power with respect to 844,779 of the indicated shares and sole dispositive power with respect to all 9,761,477 of the indicated shares, which includes shares beneficially owned by certain subsidiaries of FRM.

M&T is the sponsor of a number of employee benefit plans that hold an aggregate of 3,999,993 shares of M&T common stock as of February 29, 2016. Its principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, has sole voting authority over 1,227,923 of these shares. The remaining 2,772,070 shares of M&T common stock are voted by the trustee of the applicable employee benefit plan pursuant to the instructions of the participants in accordance with the terms of each such plan. Certain of the directors and executive officers of M&T hold indirect beneficial interests in the holdings of these employee benefit plans. See also footnotes (3) and (8) to the table set forth on page 24.

### **Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Under Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act, M&T's directors and certain of our officers, and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of M&T's outstanding shares of common stock are required to report their beneficial ownership of the common stock and any changes in that beneficial ownership to the SEC and the NYSE. M&T believes that these filing requirements were satisfied by all of its directors and Section 16 reporting officers during 2015, with the exception of one transaction that was reported late for Mr. Brady. In making the foregoing statement, M&T relied on copies of the reporting forms received by it or on the written representations from such reporting persons that no additional forms were required to be filed under the applicable rules of the SEC.

## TRANSACTIONS WITH DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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Mr. Wilmers is the beneficial owner of a 50% interest in an entity that is unaffiliated with M&T and which owns commercial aircraft that is leased to a commercial aviation service. From time to time, M&T and its subsidiaries chartered that plane from the aviation service for business use by Mr. Wilmers. M&T paid \$329,501 to the aviation service for use of the aircraft in 2015. M&T has determined that the fees paid to the aviation service for such business use of the aircraft are fair and competitive.

Mr. Sadler entered into a two-year consulting agreement with M&T effective July 1, 2014, pursuant to which he is paid a consulting fee of \$200,000 per year.

Directors and executive officers of M&T and their associates are, as they have been in the past, customers of, and have had transactions with, the banking and other operating subsidiaries of M&T, and additional transactions may be expected to take place in the future between such persons and subsidiaries. Any loans from M&T's subsidiary banks to such persons and their associates outstanding at any time since January 1, 2015 were made in the ordinary course of business of the banks on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable loans with persons not related to the banks or their subsidiaries, and did not involve more than normal risk of collectability or present other unfavorable features.

In accordance with applicable NYSE listing standards, the NCG Committee reviews, approves or ratifies all related party or affiliate transactions between M&T and any of its affiliates, directors, officers and/or employees or in which any of such persons directly or indirectly is interested or benefited other than for extensions of credit otherwise covered by policies and procedures governed by Federal Reserve Regulation O. The NCG Committee determines whether a particular relationship serves the best interests of M&T and its shareholders and whether the relationship should be continued. In addition, M&T's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, which is applicable to our directors, officers and employees, as well as to our agents and representatives, including consultants, requires that individuals avoid conflicts of interest, comply with all laws and other legal requirements, conduct business in an honest and ethical manner and otherwise act with integrity and in the best interests of M&T. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics expects individuals to report any illegal or unethical behavior that they observe. In addition, as described in "Board Independence" under the section titled "CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OF M&T BANK CORPORATION," such related party or affiliate transactions are considered by the Board of Directors in its review of director independence.

## PROPOSAL 2

### ADVISORY, NON-BINDING PROPOSAL TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION OF M&T BANK CORPORATION'S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

M&T Bank Corporation believes that its 2015 compensation policies and practices are centered on a pay-for-performance culture and are strongly aligned with the long-term interests of its shareholders, while reducing incentives for unnecessary and excessive risk taking. Our executive compensation programs are described in detail in the sections titled “COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS” and “EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.”

Section 951 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, enacted on July 21, 2010, requires that all U.S. public companies provide their shareholders with an advisory vote on the compensation of their NEOs. On January 25, 2011, the SEC adopted final rules implementing this requirement. Since the 2011 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, the Board of Directors has provided an annual shareholder advisory vote on the compensation of M&T's NEOs.

This proposal, commonly known as a “say-on-pay” proposal, gives shareholders the opportunity to vote on the overall compensation program of M&T and specifically as it applies to the NEOs through the following resolution:

**“RESOLVED, that the 2015 compensation paid to M&T Bank Corporation’s Named Executive Officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables and narrative discussion is hereby APPROVED.”**

The shareholder vote on this matter is “advisory,” meaning that it will serve as a recommendation to the Board of Directors, but will not be binding. The NCG Committee will consider the outcome of this vote when determining future executive compensation arrangements.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE COMPENSATION OF M&T BANK CORPORATION'S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.**

## COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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### Overview of M&T Bank Corporation and 2015 Financial Performance

M&T Bank Corporation is a financial holding company that through its subsidiary banks offers a wide range of retail and commercial banking, trust, wealth advisory and investment services to its customers. As of December 31, 2015, M&T had consolidated total assets of \$122.8 billion, deposits of \$92.0 billion and shareholders' equity of \$16.2 billion, and employed 16,214 full-time and 1,083 part-time employees. M&T reported net income of \$1.1 billion and diluted earnings per common share of \$7.18 for the year ended December 31, 2015. The NCG Committee has traditionally based its compensation decisions on quantitative and qualitative measures, including net income, earnings per common share, return on assets, various capital ratios, composition of earnings, asset quality relative to the banking industry, responsiveness to the economic environment, achievement of business plans, and total return to shareholders. M&T's performance substantially met its business plan on these measures. In addition, M&T's total return to shareholders has consistently been in the top quartile of the peer group over the long term (10-, 15- and 20-year periods).

### Overview and Objectives of Executive Compensation Programs

The objectives of M&T's executive compensation programs are to attract talented staff, develop leaders and retain executive officers capable of maximizing performance for the benefit of M&T. Our long-standing compensation philosophy is to emphasize long-term, equity-based compensation for our NEOs and other employees. This philosophy allows us to align our compensation with performance in three important ways:

- first, by explicitly linking the size and type of equity awards granted to the NEOs to the prior performance of M&T, including for the immediately preceding year;
- second, by tying the NEOs' ultimate realized compensation to the future value of M&T common stock, based on the performance of M&T, in alignment with our shareholders, and by seeking to balance growth with prudent risk-taking, including through the use of performance-based restricted stock unit awards; and
- third, through a culture of stock ownership and retention, including in accordance with M&T's stock ownership guidelines, whereby each NEO has a substantial financial stake tied to the long-term performance of M&T.

### Senior Executive Incentive Compensation Structure—Enhanced Focus on Risk

M&T continues to align its incentive compensation practices with the 2010 U.S. Interagency Guidance on Sound Incentive Compensation Policies and related supervisory recommendations from the Federal Reserve Board (the "Interagency Incentive Compensation Guidance"). The Interagency Incentive Compensation Guidance emphasizes three key principles: (i) providing employee incentives that appropriately balance risk and reward; (ii) ensuring effective controls and risk-management related to incentive compensation practices; and (iii) supporting strong corporate governance related to incentive compensation practices, including active and effective oversight by the organization's board of directors.

Over the past several years, M&T has taken additional steps to balance its compensation practices with appropriate incentives that do not encourage imprudent risk-taking. In furtherance of these objectives, M&T has formalized its Senior Executive Incentive Compensation Structure, which is comprised of the following four elements.

### ***Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units***

Effective January 2014, M&T began awarding all equity-based compensation to our policy-making executive officers (including the NEOs) (sometimes referred to in this discussion as “Management Group”) in the form of performance-based restricted stock units. Additionally, the NCG Committee awards performance-based restricted stock units to a group of senior officers who either manage a significant business line that may subject M&T to significant risk, or manage an area responsible for identifying, mitigating and otherwise controlling significant risk within the organization. The NCG Committee believes that awarding equity-based compensation in the form of performance-based restricted stock units discourages excessive risk-taking.

The NCG Committee, with the advice of management, determined that annual net operating return on average tangible common equity (“ROTCE”) is the appropriate performance measure by which to determine whether or not the restrictions on the performance-based restricted stock units will lapse each year, as this measure takes into account profitability, shareholder return and capital adequacy and therefore implicitly captures important risk factors. Each January prior to the annual grant of equity-based compensation, the NCG Committee establishes the ROTCE hurdle rate which must be met or exceeded for each vesting period of such award in order for the restrictions to lapse on the performance-based restricted stock units. Assuming each vesting period’s performance requirement is met, the restrictions on awards of performance-based restricted stock units will lapse equally over a three-year vesting period beginning from the date of grant. The performance-based restricted stock units will receive dividend equivalent payments if and when dividends are paid on the common stock, but they do not have voting rights during the restricted period.

### ***Forfeiture Policy***

In April 2013, the NCG Committee adopted the Policy for Alignment of Incentive Compensation with Risk (the “Forfeiture Policy”). The Forfeiture Policy sets forth the circumstances under which the NCG Committee may cause a downward adjustment in current year compensation as well as cause all or part of unvested equity awards to be cancelled. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, action or inaction on the part of an employee that results in a significant loss event (either to M&T as a whole or to a significant business line), a restatement of the financial statements due to material noncompliance with applicable financial reporting requirements, or a violation of M&T’s risk policies or procedures.

### ***Discretionary Incentive Award Guidelines***

Notwithstanding the discretionary nature of the incentive awards granted to the NEOs, M&T formalized guidelines that are to be considered when making incentive award determinations in order to strengthen the link between such awards and M&T’s performance, including creation of shareholder value, as well as consideration of risk management metrics.

### ***Stock Ownership Guidelines***

M&T's philosophy has been to foster a culture for its NEOs to acquire and retain M&T common stock. However, in 2013 M&T implemented formal Stock Ownership Guidelines for our Management Group in order to further align the interests of our executive officers with those of our shareholders. The Stock Ownership Guidelines mandate that executive officers own a significant amount of common stock measured as a multiple of base salary as follows:

- Chairman and Chief Executive Officer – five times annualized base salary;
- Other NEOs – three times annualized base salary; and
- Other members of Management Group – two times annualized base salary.

M&T requires its executive officers to achieve the targeted stock ownership levels within five years of being promoted or named to the applicable executive officer position, or the effective date of the Stock Ownership Guidelines, whichever is later. Shares counted toward these guidelines include any shares held by the executive directly or through a broker, shares held through an M&T Retirement Savings Plan, and shares held as restricted stock, restricted stock units, or restricted stock awards, whether vested or unvested. Unexercised stock options do not count as shares held by an executive toward meeting these guidelines. As of the date of this proxy statement, all Management Group members meet the stock ownership requirements.

### ***Incentive Compensation Governance***

M&T works continuously to ensure effective controls are in place for its incentive compensation programs. As part of M&T's enhanced enterprise risk framework, control functions, including Human Resources, Finance, Compliance, Legal and Risk Management, are actively involved in the oversight of M&T's incentive compensation programs. In addition, M&T's Chief Risk Officer meets with the NCG Committee on a semi-annual basis to discuss M&T's risk management performance.

Active and effective oversight of M&T's incentive compensation practices is provided by the NCG Committee. The NCG Committee is responsible for applying M&T's Forfeiture Policy and determining the appropriate pay mix and total compensation for M&T's NEOs. Additionally, the NCG Committee is responsible for establishing the appropriate performance measure for performance-based restricted stock awards. The NCG Committee shares one member with the Risk Committee, which helps to ensure the identification and prioritization of risk management matters in incentive compensation determinations.

### ***Enhanced Ability to Adjust Compensation in the Event of an Adverse Risk Outcome***

Working together, the components of the Senior Executive Incentive Compensation Structure continue to drive alignment of our NEOs' interests with those of our shareholders, are consistent with the safety and soundness of M&T, and provide an enhanced ability to account for the duration of risk and adjust compensation in the event of adverse risk outcomes.

## Process for Determining Executive Compensation

The NCG Committee is responsible for determining the compensation of our NEOs. As discussed below, the NCG Committee reviews the compensation levels of the NEOs relative to a group of commercial banking peers and considers the financial performance of M&T relative to that peer group as well as certain other factors, including our compensation mix strategy, risk management performance and individual and corporate performance, in determining the amount and mix of compensation to be paid to each NEO.

### *Compensation Review*

On an annual basis, the NCG Committee compares compensation levels for each of the NEOs and M&T's financial performance, to a group of commercial banking institutions of similar business makeup, size and geographic reach. M&T selected the nine commercial banking companies listed below, which group was determined by taking the group of U.S. based commercial bank holding companies having assets of at least \$50 billion but not more than \$200 billion as of December 31, 2014, and removing those that had a significantly dissimilar business mix, or had a substantial international presence:

BB&T Corporation (BBT)  
Comerica Incorporated (CMA)  
Fifth Third Bancorp (FITB)  
Huntington Bancshares Incorporated (HBAN)  
KeyCorp (KEY)  
PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (PNC)  
Regions Financial Corporation (RF)  
SunTrust Banks, Inc. (STI)  
Zions Bancorporation (ZION)

The 2015 peer group is unchanged from 2014 and continues to include PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., notwithstanding the fact that it is outside the asset size criterion, due to its similar business makeup and presence in many of the markets where M&T Bank conducts commercial banking activities.

Consistent with its philosophy of providing incentives that link compensation to firm performance and efforts to align with the Interagency Incentive Compensation Guidance, in determining the appropriate mix of compensation among base salary, annual cash incentives and equity-based compensation, the NCG Committee assesses the performance of each NEO after the year is complete against certain applicable aspects of management's annual business plan that is approved by the Board of Directors. The plan provides earnings-per-share growth, expense management, revenue growth, market concentration, credit quality measures and various other financial and risk management performance measures. The NCG Committee assesses the performance of each NEO in light of the business plan and relative to the performance of the firms in the peer group.



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The NCG Committee considers a number of factors specific to each executive's role when determining the amount and mix of compensation to be paid. These factors are briefly summarized in the table below:

| <b>Executive Officer</b>                           | <b>Factors Included Among NCG Committee Considerations</b>  |
|--|---|
| <b>Chief Executive Officer</b>                     | The NCG Committee, in consultation with the independent consultant, determines the compensation for the Chief Executive Officer based upon its review of various corporate goals and objectives, consisting primarily of management's annual business plan. |
| <b>NEOs other than the Chief Executive Officer</b> | Recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer and other applicable members of Management Group, in consultation with the independent consultant, and an assessment of individual performance.  |
| <b>All NEOs</b>                                    | Financial performance of M&T (on a "net operating" basis, as defined by M&T) over the most recent fiscal year and prior years;  |
|  | Achievement of M&T compared to its corporate, financial, strategic and operational objectives and business plans, and compared to the performance of the peer group firms;  |
|  | Cumulative shareholder return;  |
|  | Performance relative to risk management objectives; and   |
|  | Compensation of comparable executives at the peer group firms.  |

### ***Role of Compensation Consultant***

In both 2014 and 2015, the NCG Committee retained the services of McLagan, an Aon Hewitt company, to review the NEOs' compensation and to provide insights for each of those years into the anticipated compensation levels within the peer group for 2014 and 2015 performance. This review included a review of the following components of NEO compensation:

- base salaries;
- annual cash incentives; and
- long-term incentives, including equity-based compensation.

The review compared NEO compensation to the compensation of the peer group as determined by McLagan based on information provided by the peer group in the 2014 and 2015 proxy statements, surveys and other sources. The NCG Committee uses information about the peer group to help assess the competitiveness of M&T's pay practices. McLagan also advised the NCG Committee regarding the reasonableness of the levels of compensation and alignment of pay and performance for the NEOs with respect to performance years 2014 and 2015. Additional information regarding McLagan and a description of the services provided by it and its affiliates to M&T during 2015, including the fees paid by M&T, is provided in the section titled "NOMINATION, COMPENSATION AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION."

### ***Individual Performance Assessments***

In addition to the overall performance metrics for M&T discussed above, the NCG Committee considered the following in assessing the performance of the NEOs during 2015 and the appropriate compensation levels and mix of compensation (base salary, annual cash incentive and equity-based compensation) to reflect that performance:

**Mr. Wilmers.** As Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Wilmers is responsible for M&T's overall financial performance. M&T substantially achieved its annual business plan for 2015. Mr. Wilmers' continued focus on and accountability to M&T's key priorities has allowed M&T to strengthen its regulatory compliance program, which enabled M&T to complete the merger of Hudson City Bancorp, Inc. ("Hudson City") on November 1, 2015.

**Mr. Jones.** As Vice Chairman of M&T Bank and Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Jones continues to lead M&T's efforts to strengthen its capital planning practices in response to regulatory changes. For 2015, he was also instrumental in maintaining strong (compared to the peer group) net income growth and earnings per share growth. Mr. Jones continued to provide strategic oversight of the Wilmington Trust businesses and was instrumental to the completion of the merger with Hudson City.

**Mr. Czarnecki.** As President and Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Czarnecki is responsible for the day-to-day management of M&T. He also shares accountability with Mr. Wilmers for the overall financial results of M&T as well as achievement of M&T's key priorities, which included the completion of the merger with Hudson City.

**Mr. Pearson.** As Vice Chairman of M&T Bank and Chairman of M&T Bank's senior loan committee (through September 2015), Mr. Pearson shares responsibility for M&T Bank's continued strong credit quality in 2015 and strong credit performance relative to the peer group. Effective October 2015, Mr. Pearson assumed responsibility for M&T's credit division and relinquished his role on M&T Bank's senior loan committee. He also played an integral role in preparing for the integration of Hudson City.

**Mr. Gold.** As Vice Chairman of M&T Bank and Chief Risk Officer, Mr. Gold maintains overall responsibility for M&T's risk management functions. Under his leadership, M&T has made continued progress on the enhancement of its compliance management program, including its BSA/AML regulatory compliance program and its enterprise-wide risk management framework. Mr. Gold's efforts in this regard were instrumental to the merger with Hudson City.

Based upon the achievements described above, and as set forth in more detail below, the total compensation opportunity for each NEO in 2016, when compared to the total compensation opportunity in 2015, resulted in no increase for each of Messrs. Wilmers and Czarnecki, an increase of 11.1% for Mr. Pearson and an increase of 6.7% for each of Messrs. Jones and Gold. Although the NCG Committee believed that increases in the total compensation opportunity for Messrs. Wilmers and Czarnecki were also warranted for 2016 based upon M&T's and their individual performance, the NCG Committee determined to honor the request of Messrs. Wilmers and Czarnecki that they not be considered for any increase.

### **Consideration of Shareholder Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation**

The NCG Committee views the shareholder vote on executive compensation as an important expression of whether other shareholders agree with the NCG Committee's decisions on how to align compensation with performance, particularly long-term performance. In connection with the shareholder advisory vote at the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, 98.2% of the shares that were voted on that matter approved of the compensation of the NEOs. The NCG Committee considered this to be a strong indication that other shareholders believe that the NEOs' compensation is aligned with the performance of M&T.

## Components of Executive Compensation

Consistent with M&T's philosophy of aligning NEO compensation with the interests of shareholders, the NCG Committee historically tended to award a relatively higher percentage of compensation in the form of equity-based compensation than members of the peer group.

Based on the analysis performed by the NCG Committee's compensation consultant in 2015 (for compensation paid during the 2014 performance year), the aggregate total compensation (total cash compensation plus equity-based compensation or other long-term incentives) of the NEOs, other than Messrs. Wilmers and Gold, was approaching, or slightly above, the aggregate medians for comparable executives employed by the members of the peer group. Mr. Wilmers' total compensation was in the bottom quartile of comparable executives employed by members of the peer group. Mr. Gold's total compensation was between the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of comparable executives employed by members of the peer group. In determining the appropriate level of compensation for the NEOs, the NCG Committee focused on the total compensation of comparable positions within the peer group. We provide a brief explanation of the factors used to determine each component of the NEOs' compensation in the sections that follow.

### *Salaries*

Base salaries of the NEOs are determined by the NCG Committee based on a number of factors, including the scope of the executive's responsibilities, historical base salaries of comparable executives employed by members of the peer group, and past and expected future contributions.

### *2016 Salary Determinations*

The NCG Committee made base salary determinations for 2016 for the NEOs in January 2016. Given M&T's performance in 2015, compared to both that of the peer group and its business plan, the individual performance of each of the NEOs as discussed above, and the completion of the merger and forthcoming integration of Hudson City, the NCG Committee determined that the total compensation of Messrs. Jones, Pearson and Gold should be increased for 2016. As discussed above, the NCG Committee determined that the total compensation of Messrs. Wilmers and Czarnecki would remain flat for 2016 and, as such, determined that their cash salaries should remain unchanged for 2016. Considering the mix of desired compensation, individual performance and the information about the relative compensation levels at the peer group, the NCG Committee determined that the respective cash salaries for the other NEOs should be increased as follows: Mr. Jones - \$25,000; Mr. Pearson - \$50,000; and Mr. Gold - \$50,000.

### *2015 Salary Determinations*

The NCG Committee made base salary determinations for 2015 for the NEOs in January 2015. Given M&T's performance in 2014, compared to both that of the peer group and its business plan, the individual performance of each of the NEOs as discussed above, and the increased responsibilities assumed by Messrs. Jones, Pearson and Gold, the NCG Committee determined that the total compensation of Messrs. Jones, Pearson and Gold should be increased and that the total compensation of Messrs. Wilmers and Czarnecki should remain flat for 2015. Considering the mix of compensation desired for the NEOs, the performance of each NEO and information about relative compensation levels at the peer group, the NCG Committee determined that the respective cash salaries should be increased as follows: Mr. Jones - \$75,000; Mr. Pearson - \$50,000; and Mr. Gold - \$25,000. The cash salaries of Messrs. Wilmers and Czarnecki were not changed for 2015.

### *Incentive Compensation*

Consistent with the objective of linking compensation to M&T's performance for the benefit of M&T's shareholders, in determining annual cash incentive and equity awards, the NCG Committee has historically assessed the following factors, without assigning specific weighting to any single factor:

- M&T's current and past performance compared to its business plan and other qualitative and quantitative factors;
- M&T's performance compared to the peer group used for performance purposes;
- the NEO's individual performance, as discussed above;
- risk management and adherence to M&T's risk appetite;
- with respect to equity awards, dilution and the market value of the common stock;
- compensation information with respect to the compensation peer group; and
- M&T's future prospects.

### *Annual Cash Incentives*

The NEOs participate in the Annual Executive Incentive Plan, which plan provides for discretionary grants of cash awards to the NEOs as determined by the NCG Committee.

### *2015 Cash Incentive Award Determinations*

Due to the discretionary structure of the Annual Executive Incentive Plan, the NEOs do not have, and historically have not had, target levels of awards or stated goals and payout levels under that plan. Consequently, the NCG Committee considered the following factors in making the cash incentive awards in January 2016: (i) the performance of M&T during 2015 relative to its business plan and relative to the peer group for performance purposes; (ii) the contribution of each of the NEOs to that performance; (iii) effective risk management and adherence to M&T's risk appetite; and (iv) the performance of Messrs. Jones, Pearson and Gold in fulfilling their expanded roles, including efforts related to the merger with Hudson City. Based upon an evaluation of these factors, the NCG Committee determined that it was appropriate to award each of the NEOs a cash incentive under the Annual Executive Incentive Plan for 2015 performance as follows: each of Messrs. Wilmers and Czarnecki - \$425,000 (which, as discussed above, was unchanged from the prior year award); Mr. Pearson - \$500,000 (a \$100,000 increase from the prior year award); Mr. Jones - \$475,000 (a \$100,000 increase from the prior year award); and Mr. Gold - \$475,000 (a \$75,000 increase from the prior year award).

### *Equity-Based Incentives*

Also consistent with its philosophy of linking compensation to M&T's performance for the benefit of M&T's shareholders, M&T provides long-term incentive opportunities to its executive officers through discretionary grants of equity-based compensation under the M&T Bank Corporation 2009 Equity Incentive Compensation Plan ("Equity Incentive Compensation Plan"). The NCG Committee determines the dollar value of equity awards to be made to the NEOs at its meeting in January of each year. Following that meeting, the equity awards are granted on the last business day of January. In making grants of equity awards, the NCG Committee generally assesses the following factors over a three-year period or longer:

- The performance of M&T relative to prior years; and
- The performance of M&T for the immediately preceding year relative to its business plan and the peer group used for performance purposes.

### *Stock Options*

Management and the NCG Committee historically believed that stock options were an effective long-term incentive because the holder could profit only if the value of M&T common stock increased. In the past, M&T utilized incentive stock options that complied with Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code, to the maximum extent permitted. In making such awards in the past, the NCG Committee concluded that the potential tax advantages available to the NEOs with incentive stock options increased the likelihood that a NEO would hold the stock received upon exercise of a stock option. Typically, stock options vested over a four-year period, with 10% vesting one year after the date of grant, an additional 20% vesting two years after the date of grant, an additional 30% vesting three years after the date of grant, and the remaining 40% vesting four years after the date of grant. M&T has not granted stock options to any NEO or any member of Management Group since 2009.

### *Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units*

Management and the NCG Committee believe that restricted stock and restricted stock units to be settled in stock also provide an effective long-term incentive because the value of the award can be further enhanced if the value of the common stock increases from the date of grant to the date restrictions lapse. The restrictions on awards of restricted stock or restricted stock units granted prior to 2014 will lapse based on the same service-based vesting schedule used for stock options. Restrictions on awards of restricted stock or restricted stock units made beginning in January 2014 will lapse on a pro-rata basis over three years. The restricted stock will receive dividends if and when dividends are paid on M&T common stock and will have voting rights during the restricted period. The restricted stock units will receive dividend equivalent payments if and when dividends are paid on the M&T common stock but they do not have voting rights during the restricted period. Beginning in 2009, for tax reasons, the NCG Committee determined to award restricted stock units to be settled in M&T common stock as a substitute for awards of restricted stock to employees who are eligible for retirement under the Qualified Pension Plan.

### *Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units*

As discussed above, beginning in January 2014, M&T began awarding all equity-based compensation for the NEOs in the form of performance-based restricted stock units. The restrictions on the awards of such performance-based restricted stock units will lapse equally over a three-year vesting period beginning from the date of grant if the ROTCE hurdle rate established by the NCG Committee prior to the annual grant date is met or exceeded for each vesting period. The performance-based restricted stock units will receive dividend equivalent payments if and when dividends are paid on the common stock, but they do not have voting rights during the restricted period.

#### *2016 Equity Awards*

The NCG Committee granted equity awards to the NEOs in 2016 based on the assessment criteria discussed above in the form of performance-based restricted stock units. The aggregate value of the long-term performance-based restricted stock units awarded to each NEO was: Messrs. Wilmers and Czarnecki - \$1,675,000; Mr. Pearson - \$1,275,000; and each of Messrs. Jones and Gold - \$1,200,000. As discussed above, for Messrs. Wilmers and Czarnecki, these equity awards were unchanged from 2015, while Mr. Pearson received an increase of \$100,000 and Messrs. Jones and Gold each received an increase of \$25,000.

The performance-based long-term stock awards were in the form of restricted stock units to be settled in stock, and were granted on January 29, 2016 in accordance with the Equity Incentive Compensation Plan. The restricted stock units granted on January 29, 2016 will be settled in M&T common stock on a pro-rata basis over the three years following the grant date. All such restricted stock units will generally be settled in M&T common stock upon the death or disability of a NEO, or upon a change-in-control of M&T. In the event of retirement, however, the settlement is contingent upon the achievement of the performance requirement for the performance period in which retirement occurs. The awards of restricted stock units granted on January 29, 2016 will be entitled to the receipt of any dividend equivalents paid on stock units.

#### *2015 Equity Awards*

The NCG Committee granted equity awards to the NEOs in 2015 based on the assessment criteria discussed above in the form of performance-based restricted stock units. The aggregate value of the long-term performance-based restricted stock units awarded to each of Messrs. Wilmers and Czarnecki was \$1,675,000, and \$1,175,000 was awarded to each of Messrs. Jones, Pearson and Gold. For Messrs. Wilmers, Czarnecki, Jones and Pearson, these equity awards were unchanged from 2014, while Mr. Gold received an increase of \$375,000. The total compensation opportunity for each NEO in 2015, when compared to the total compensation opportunity in 2014, resulted in no increase for each of Messrs. Wilmers and Czarnecki, increases of 7% for each of Messrs. Jones and Pearson, and a 22% increase for Mr. Gold.

The performance-based long-term stock awards were in the form of restricted stock units to be settled in stock, and were granted on January 30, 2015 in accordance with the Equity Incentive Compensation Plan, the material terms of which were approved by M&T's shareholders in 2015. The restricted stock units granted on January 30, 2015 will be settled in stock on a pro-rata basis over the three years following the grant date. All such restricted stock units will

generally be settled in stock upon retirement, death or disability of a NEO, or upon a change-in-control of M&T. The awards of restricted stock units granted on January 30, 2015 will be entitled to the receipt of any dividend equivalents paid on stock units.

The supplemental table below shows the mix of annual base salary, annual cash incentives and equity awards approved by the NCG Committee for each NEO in January 2016:

### Summary of 2016 Executive Compensation Determinations

| Named Executive Officer | 2016 Base Salary | Bonus Paid in 2016 for 2015 Performance | 2016 Equity Awards | Total 2016 Compensation Opportunity |
|-------------------------|------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Robert G. Wilmers       | \$ 950,000       | \$ 425,000                              | \$ 1,675,000       | \$ 3,050,000                        |
| René F. Jones           | \$ 725,000       | \$ 475,000                              | \$ 1,200,000       | \$ 2,400,000                        |
| Mark J. Czarnecki       | \$ 900,000       | \$ 425,000                              | \$ 1,675,000       | \$ 3,000,000                        |
| Kevin J. Pearson        | \$ 725,000       | \$ 500,000                              | \$ 1,275,000       | \$ 2,500,000                        |
| Richard S. Gold         | \$ 725,000       | \$ 475,000                              | \$ 1,200,000       | \$ 2,400,000                        |

#### *Perquisites and Other Personal Benefits*

Generally, M&T provides limited perquisites to its NEOs. The perquisites that are provided are designed to assist a NEO in being productive and are limited to those that management and the NCG Committee believe are consistent with our overall compensation program. Given the importance of developing business relationships for our success, our NEOs are reimbursed for certain initiation fees and dues they incur for club memberships deemed advisable for business purposes.

#### *Retirement and Other Benefits*

M&T maintains two tax-qualified retirement plans for its employees, one a defined benefit plan and the other a defined contribution plan. Each of the NEOs participates in the defined benefit plan, except for Mr. Jones, who elected to have his benefit under the defined benefit plan frozen as of December 31, 2005, and to earn future benefits under the defined contribution plan. Mr. Jones made his election pursuant to a one-time election that was offered to all participants in the defined benefit plan in late 2005 to remain in the defined benefit plan and earn future benefits under a new reduced benefit formula or to retain the frozen benefit in the defined benefit plan and earn future benefits under a new defined contribution plan beginning January 1, 2006.

In addition, M&T maintains nonqualified defined benefit and defined contribution retirement plans to supplement retirement benefits for the NEOs in order to make up for benefits that cannot otherwise be provided in the qualified plan due to Internal Revenue Service limits, however, total compensation recognized for this purpose is capped at \$350,000. The nonqualified plans are not funded, except as benefits are actually paid to executive officers upon retirement. Additional information regarding these retirement plans and arrangements is provided in the sections titled "Pension Benefits" and "Nonqualified Deferred Compensation."

M&T does not believe it is appropriate to provide the NEOs with severance packages beyond what is provided to employees of M&T generally. Consequently, the NEOs have

historically participated in the M&T Bank Corporation Severance Pay Plan (the “Severance Pay Plan”), which provides for post-employment severance payments that are tiered based upon an employee’s position and years of service, and the continuation of certain employee benefits. Upon a “Qualifying Event” (defined in the Severance Pay Plan as any permanent, involuntary termination of a participant’s active employment as a result of a reduction in force, restructuring, outsourcing or elimination of position), a NEO would be entitled to benefits under the Severance Pay Plan.

Other than benefits that are generally available to employees, M&T does not maintain any individual severance or change-in-control arrangements. M&T’s compensation plans do not contain payments or benefits to NEOs that are specifically triggered by a change-in-control, except that M&T’s various equity-based compensation plans provide that, upon a change-in-control, all employees, including the NEOs, would become fully vested in any outstanding awards that were not already vested. M&T has elected to provide such acceleration because of a belief that the principal purpose of providing executive officers and other employees with equity incentives is to align their interests with those of M&T’s shareholders and that this alignment should be enhanced, not weakened, in the context of a change-in-control. Accelerating the vesting of equity-based compensation upon a change-in-control allows employees the same opportunity as other shareholders to sell shares freely following the completion of the transaction and realize the economic benefits of such transaction, without forcing them to be exposed to the post-closing performance of the acquirer.

## **Tax Matters**

Section 162(m) and related regulations generally impose a \$1 million cap on the deductibility of compensation paid to certain executive officers of a publicly held corporation, subject to certain exceptions. One exception is for “performance-based compensation” paid under shareholder approved plans. The executive officers to whom Section 162(m) applies includes M&T’s Chief Executive Officer and the next three most highly compensated executive officers (other than the chief financial officer). The performance-based restricted stock units that were awarded to Messrs. Wilmers, Czarnecki, Pearson and Gold in January 2016 and 2015 are intended to be deductible under Section 162(m) pursuant to the “performance-based compensation” exception. The Section 162(m) Cash Incentive Program established by the NCG Committee in 2015 is also intended to be structured to provide for payments to the NEOs (except for Mr. Jones) that would be deductible under Section 162(m) pursuant to this exception. While the NCG Committee considers the desirability of limiting M&T’s non-deductible expenses as one factor when it makes compensation determinations, the NCG Committee believes in preserving its ability to award compensation to the NEOs that is not deductible under Section 162(m) for competitive purposes when it is in the best interests of M&T.



## NOMINATION, COMPENSATION AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nomination, Compensation and Governance Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of SEC Regulation S-K with management. Based on such review and discussions, the Nomination, Compensation and Governance Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

This report was adopted on February 17, 2016 by the Nomination, Compensation and Governance Committee of the Board of Directors:

Brent D. Baird, Chairman  
Robert T. Brady  
Gary N. Geisel

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The following table contains information concerning the compensation of M&T's NEOs in the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013.

**2015 Summary Compensation Table**

| Name and Principal Position                                | Yr.  | Salary (\$) | Bonus (\$) | Stock Awards <sup>(1)</sup> (\$) | Option Awards (\$) | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Comp. (\$) | Change in Pension Value and Non-Qualified Deferred Comp. Earnings <sup>(2)</sup> (\$) | All Other Comp. <sup>(3)</sup> (\$) | Total (\$)               |
|--|------|-------------|------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Robert G. Wilmers<br>Principal Executive Officer           | 2015 | \$ 950,000  | \$ 425,000 | \$ 1,675,107                     | \$ -               | \$ -                                 | \$ 460,688  | \$ 184,655 <sup>(4)</sup>           | \$ 3,695,450             |
|  | 2014 | 950,000     | 425,000    | 1,675,103                        | -                  | -                                    | 989,767   | 183,549                             | 4,223,419 <sup>(9)</sup> |
|  | 2013 | 950,000     | 425,000    | 1,905,000                        | -                  | -                                    | 226,467   | 167,756                             | 3,674,223                |
| René F. Jones<br>Principal Financial Officer               | 2015 | \$ 700,000  | \$ 475,000 | \$ 1,175,053                     | \$ -               | \$ -                                 | \$ 0  | \$ 136,898 <sup>(5)</sup>           | \$ 2,486,951             |
|  | 2014 | 625,000     | 375,000    | 1,175,092                        | -                  | -                                    | 56,870  | 129,914                             | 2,361,876 <sup>(9)</sup> |
|  | 2013 | 600,000     | 300,000    | 1,303,000                        | -                  | -                                    | -   | 117,276                             | 2,320,276                |
| Mark J. Czarnecki<br>President and Chief Operating Officer | 2015 | \$ 900,000  | \$ 425,000 | \$ 1,675,107                     | \$ -               | \$ -                                 | \$ 57,630   | \$ 247,787 <sup>(6)</sup>           | \$ 3,305,524             |
|  | 2014 | 900,000     | 425,000    | 1,675,103                        | -                  | -                                    | 342,579   | 168,847                             | 3,511,529 <sup>(9)</sup> |
|  | 2013 | 900,000     | 425,000    | 1,940,000                        | -                  | -                                    | -   | 158,993                             | 3,423,993                |
| Kevin J. Pearson<br>Executive Vice President               | 2015 | \$ 675,000  | \$ 500,000 | \$ 1,175,053                     | \$ -               | \$ -                                 | \$ 32,680   | \$ 114,903 <sup>(7)</sup>           | \$ 2,497,636             |
|  | 2014 | 625,000     | 400,000    | 1,175,092                        | -                  | -                                    | 228,325   | 112,887                             | 2,541,304 <sup>(9)</sup> |
|  | 2013 | 600,000     | 300,000    | 1,275,000                        | -                  | -                                    | -   | 103,652                             | 2,278,652                |
| Richard S. Gold<br>EVP and Chief Risk Officer              | 2015 | \$ 675,000  | \$ 475,000 | \$ 1,175,053                     | \$ -               | \$ -                                 | \$ 36,809   | \$ 101,362 <sup>(8)</sup>           | \$ 2,463,224             |
|  | 2014 | 650,000     | 400,000    | 800,084                          | -                  | -                                    | 208,484   | 91,851                              | 2,150,419 <sup>(9)</sup> |
|  | 2013 | -           | -          | -                                | -                  | -                                    | -   | -                                   | -                        |

(1) The amounts indicated represent the aggregate grant date fair value of equity awards granted to each of the NEOs. The grant date fair values are calculated in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718, Compensation—Stock Compensation (“FASB ASC Topic 718”).

(2) This column includes the aggregate positive change in actuarial present value of each NEO's accumulated benefit under the Qualified Pension Plan and Supplemental Pension Plan. In accordance with SEC rules, to the extent the aggregate change in present value of all defined benefit plans for a particular fiscal year

would have been a negative amount, the amount has instead been reported as \$0 and the aggregate compensation for the NEO in the “Total” column has not been adjusted to reflect the negative amount. The aggregate negative change in the present value of the non-qualified deferred compensation plan and pension and retirement benefits for certain NEOs in 2015 was as follows: Mr. Jones – (\$3,533). The assumptions used to calculate the present value of accumulated benefits are the same as those used for Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 715, Compensation- Retirement Benefits (“FASB ASC Topic 715”) financial statement disclosure purposes, except that no pre- retirement decrements are assumed. The present value of accrued benefits as of December 31, 2015 is calculated assuming the executive commences his accrued benefit earned through December 31, 2015 at normal retirement age. For the December 31, 2015 and 2014 calculations, the mortality assumption beginning at normal retirement age is based upon the Pension Plan Mortality Table (“RP-2014”) and generational projection using Mortality Improvement Scale (“MP-2014”) that were released by the Society of Actuaries in 2014. For the December 31, 2013 calculations, the mortality assumption beginning at normal retirement age is based on the Pension Protection Act of 2006 prescribed static mortality table as applicable for 2014.

The discount rate assumption is 4.75% for the December 31, 2013 calculations, 4.00% for the December 31, 2014 calculations and 4.25% for the December 31, 2015 calculations.

Normal retirement age is age 65 for all participants. Mr. Wilmers is older than age 65; therefore, he is assumed to retire at his current age. It is assumed that the participants will elect the single life annuity form.

- (3) This column includes for each NEO: (i) an \$11,925 contribution in 2015 to the Retirement Savings Plan, a qualified defined contribution plan; and (ii) a \$3,825 credit under the M&T Bank Corporation Supplemental Retirement Savings Plan (the “Supplemental Retirement Savings Plan”). It also includes, for Mr. Jones: (i) a \$13,250 contribution to the Retirement Accumulation Account portion of the Retirement Savings Plan, a qualified defined contribution plan; and (ii) a \$4,250 credit under the Supplemental Retirement Accumulation Account portion of the Supplemental Retirement Savings Plan earned in 2015. It also includes the following insurance premiums paid in 2015 in respect of term life insurance for the benefit of each of the NEOs: Mr. Wilmers - \$10,506; Mr. Jones - \$2,622; Mr. Czarnecki - \$7,524; Mr. Pearson - \$2,622; and Mr. Gold - \$1,419. It further includes dividends and dividend equivalents on unvested restricted stock and restricted stock units for 2015, 2014 and 2013 as follows: Mr. Wilmers - \$116,575; Mr. Jones - \$80,564; Mr. Czarnecki - \$115,497; Mr. Pearson - \$81,056; and Mr. Gold - \$62,298.
- (4) Perquisites for Mr. Wilmers included club membership dues and expenses, parking, meals and expenses associated with an apartment in Buffalo, New York. No perquisite exceeded the greater of \$25,000 or 10% of the total perquisites provided to Mr. Wilmers.
- (5) Perquisites for Mr. Jones included club membership dues and expenses, tax preparation expenses, parking and meals. No perquisite exceeded the greater of \$25,000 or 10% of the total perquisites provided to Mr. Jones.
- (6) Perquisites for Mr. Czarnecki included club membership dues and expenses, tax preparation expenses, parking, meals and travel for medical care. In 2015, Mr. Czarnecki had expenses paid associated with travel for medical care in the amount of \$70,485 and had country club membership dues paid in the amount of \$26,791; no other perquisite exceeded the greater of \$25,000 or 10% of the total perquisites provided to Mr. Czarnecki.
- (7) Perquisites for Mr. Pearson included tax preparation expenses, parking and meals. No perquisite exceeded the greater of \$25,000 or 10% of the total perquisites provided to Mr. Pearson.
- (8) Perquisites for Mr. Gold included club membership dues and expenses, tax preparation expenses, parking and meals. No perquisite exceeded the greater of \$25,000 or 10% of the total perquisites provided to Mr. Gold.
- (9) In 2014, the total compensation of M&T’s NEOs was impacted by certain changes in the assumptions underlying the calculation of the change in pension value and nonqualified deferred compensation earnings, including new mortality tables as set forth in more detail in footnote (2).

**Grants of Plan-Based Awards**

The following table reflects the terms of compensation plan-based awards granted to the NEOs in 2015.

**2015 Grants of Plan-Based Awards**

| Name              | Grant Date | Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (\$) |        |      | Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards (#) |        |      | All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units | All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options | Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards <sup>(1)</sup> |
|-------------------|------------|--|--------|------|---|--------|------|--|--|---|---|
|                   |            | Threshold  | Target | Max. | Threshold   | Target | Max. |  |  |   |   |
| Robert G. Wilmers | 1/30/15    | \$ -   | \$ -   | \$ - | -   | -      | -    | 14,803   | -  | \$ -                                    | \$1,675,107 <sup>(2)</sup>                                      |
| René F. Jones     | 1/30/15    | \$ -   | \$ -   | \$ - | -   | -      | -    | 10,384   | -  | \$ -                                    | \$1,175,053 <sup>(3)</sup>                                      |
| Mark J. Czarnecki | 1/30/15    | \$ -   | \$ -   | \$ - | -   | -      | -    | 14,803   | -  | \$ -                                    | \$1,675,107 <sup>(2)</sup>                                      |
| Kevin J. Pearson  | 1/30/15    | \$ -   | \$ -   | \$ - | -   | -      | -    | 10,384   | -  | \$ -                                    | \$1,175,053 <sup>(2)</sup>                                      |
| Richard S. Gold   | 1/30/15    | \$ -   | \$ -   | \$ - | -   | -      | -    | 10,384   | -  | \$ -                                    | \$1,175,053 <sup>(2)</sup>                                      |

- (1) The amounts indicated represent the aggregate grant date fair value of equity awards granted to each of the NEOs in 2015. The grant date fair values are calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718.
- (2) Vesting of the stock awards granted to Messrs. Wilmers, Czarnecki, Pearson and Gold in 2015 occurs on a graduated basis with 33% vesting on January 30, 2016, an additional 33% vesting on January 30, 2017 and the remaining 34% vesting on January 30, 2018. Each vesting is contingent upon M&T Bank Corporation achieving a pre-established net operating return on tangible common equity metric (the “Performance Requirement”). If the Performance Requirement is not satisfied for a given period, the portion of the stock award that is scheduled to vest on the vesting date immediately following that performance period will not vest and will be forfeited unless otherwise determined by the NCG Committee. The Equity Incentive Compensation Plan allows for accelerated vesting in cases of death, disability, retirement or a change-in-control. In the case of the stock awards granted to Messrs. Wilmers, Czarnecki, Pearson and Gold in 2015, termination of employment as a result of death, disability or change-in-control results in immediate vesting of any unvested portion of the award. Termination of employment as a result of retirement also results in accelerated vesting of any unvested portion of the award on the next scheduled vesting date, but only if the Performance Requirement is met for the performance period in which retirement occurs. If the Performance Requirement is not met for the performance period in which retirement occurs, the portion of the stock award that is scheduled to vest on the vesting date immediately following that performance period will not vest and will be forfeited unless otherwise determined by the NCG Committee. The portion of the stock award that is scheduled to vest in any performance period following retirement will vest if the Performance Requirement is met for that performance period, or, if the Performance Requirement is not met for that performance period, will not vest and will be forfeited unless otherwise determined by the NCG Committee.
- (3) Vesting of the stock awards granted to Mr. Jones in 2015 occurs on a graduated basis with 33% vesting on January 30, 2016, an additional 33% vesting on January 30, 2017 and the remaining 34% vesting on January 30, 2018. Each vesting is contingent on M&T achieving a pre-established return on tangible common equity. If the Performance Requirement is not satisfied for a given period, the portion of the stock award that is scheduled to vest on the vesting date immediately following that performance period will not vest and will be forfeited unless otherwise determined by the NCG Committee. The Equity Incentive Compensation Plan allows for accelerated vesting in cases of death, disability, retirement or a change-in-control.

**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End**

The following table reflects the number and terms of stock option awards and stock awards outstanding as of December 31, 2015 for the NEOs.

**Outstanding Equity Awards at 2015 Fiscal Year-End**

| Name              | Option Awards  |   |   |                            | Stock Awards           |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------|--|---|---|----------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
|                   | Number of Securities Underlying Un-exercised Options Exercisable (#) | Number of Securities Underlying Un-exercised Options Un-exercisable (#) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Un-exercised Unearned Options (#) | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)(1) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) |
| Robert G. Wilmers |  |   |   |                            |                        | 41,556   | \$ 5,035,756   | \$ -   | \$ -   |
| René F. Jones     | 13,168   | -   | -   | \$ 108.93                  | 1/17/16                |  |  |  |  |
|                   | 15,740   | -   | -   | 121.31                     | 1/31/17                |  |  |  |  |
|                   | 28,392   | -   | -   | 91.28                      | 1/31/18                |  |  |  |  |
| Mark J. Czarnecki |  |   |   |                            |                        | 28,802   | \$ 3,490,226   | \$ -   | \$ -   |
|                   | 36,225   | -   | -   | \$ 108.93                  | 1/17/16                |  |  |  |  |
|                   | 52,466   | -   | -   | 121.31                     | 1/31/17                |  |  |  |  |
|                   | 94,638   | -   | -   | 91.28                      | 1/31/18                |  |  |  |  |
| Kevin J. Pearson  |  |   |   |                            |                        | 41,304   | \$ 5,005,219   | \$ -   | \$ -   |
|                   | 27,982   | -   | -   | \$ 121.31                  | 1/31/17                |  |  |  |  |
|                   | 50,474   | -   | -   | 91.28                      | 1/31/18                |  |  |  |  |
| Richard S. Gold   |  |   |   |                            |                        | 28,861   | \$ 3,497,376   | \$ -   | \$ -   |
|                   | 12,942   | -   | -   | \$ 121.31                  | 1/31/17                |  |  |  |  |
|                   | 6,996  | -   | -   | 111.34                     | 4/30/17                |  |  |  |  |
|                   | 23,344   | -   | -   | 91.28                      | 1/31/18                |  |  |  |  |
|                   |  |   |   |                            |                        | 23,006   | \$ 2,787,867   | \$ -   | \$ -   |

(1) From 2009 until August 21, 2012, M&T’s compensation programs were subjected to certain restrictions on executive compensation pursuant to the rules governing executive compensation applicable to financial institutions that received investments from the U.S. Department of the Treasury pursuant to the Troubled Asset Relief Program (“TARP”). Vesting of the stock awards granted to the NEOs in 2012 and the TARP awards granted to the NEOs in 2013 occurs on a graduated basis with 30% vesting on the second anniversary of the grant date, an additional 30% vesting on the third anniversary of the grant date, and the remaining 40% vesting on the fourth anniversary of the grant date. Vesting of the non- TARP stock awards granted to the NEOs in 2013 occurs on a graduated basis with 10% vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date, an additional 20% vesting on the second anniversary of the grant date, an additional 30% vesting on the third anniversary of the grant date, and the remaining 40% vesting on the fourth anniversary of the grant date. Vesting of the stock awards granted to the NEOs in 2014 occurs on a graduated basis with 33% of the award vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date, an additional 33% of the award vesting on the second anniversary of the grant date, and the remaining 34% of the award vesting on the third anniversary of the grant date. See footnotes (2) and (3) to the table set forth under the section “2015 Grants of Plan-Based Awards” for the vesting schedule of the stock awards granted to the NEOs in 2015. See the below chart for more detailed information concerning the number of outstanding shares from each award and their corresponding vesting dates. Note that the Equity Incentive Compensation Plan allows for accelerated vesting in cases of death, disability, retirement or a change-in-control.

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| Name              | Grant Date | Shares or Units Granted | Shares or Units Not Vested | Remaining Vesting Dates |
|-------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Robert G. Wilmers | 1/31/12    | 8,152                   | 3,261                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   | 2/29/12    | 1,226                   | 491                        | 2/29/16                 |
|                   | 1/31/13    | 5,746                   | 1,724                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 2,299                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/31/13    | 12,806                  | 3,841                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 5,122                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/31/14    | 15,022                  | 5,007                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 5,008                      | 1/31/17                 |
| 1/30/15           | 14,803     | 4,934                   | 1/31/16                    |                         |
|                   |            | 4,934                   | 1/31/17                    |                         |
|                   |            | 4,935                   | 1/31/18                    |                         |
| René F. Jones     | 1/31/12    | 6,271                   | 2,509                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   | 1/31/13    | 3,701                   | 1,110                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 1,481                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/31/13    | 8,989                   | 2,697                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 3,595                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/31/14    | 10,538                  | 3,513                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 3,513                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/30/15    | 10,384                  | 3,461                      | 1/31/16                 |
| 3,461             |            |                         | 1/31/17                    |                         |
| 3,462             |            |                         | 1/31/18                    |                         |
| Mark J. Czarnecki | 1/31/12    | 8,152                   | 3,261                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   | 1/31/13    | 5,746                   | 1,724                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 2,299                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/31/13    | 13,147                  | 3,944                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 5,258                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/31/14    | 15,022                  | 5,007                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 5,008                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/30/15    | 14,803                  | 4,934                      | 1/31/16                 |
| 4,934             |            |                         | 1/31/17                    |                         |
| 4,935             |            |                         | 1/31/18                    |                         |
| Kevin J. Pearson  | 1/31/12    | 6,898                   | 2,760                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   | 1/31/13    | 3,555                   | 1,067                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 1,422                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/31/13    | 8,862                   | 2,658                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 3,544                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/31/14    | 10,538                  | 3,513                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 3,513                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/30/15    | 10,384                  | 3,461                      | 1/31/16                 |
| 3,461             |            |                         | 1/31/17                    |                         |
| 3,462             |            |                         | 1/31/18                    |                         |
| Richard S. Gold   | 1/31/12    | 4,766                   | 1,907                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   | 1/31/13    | 2,922                   | 877                        | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 1,169                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/31/13    | 5,551                   | 1,665                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 2,220                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/31/14    | 7,175                   | 2,392                      | 1/31/16                 |
|                   |            |                         | 2,392                      | 1/31/17                 |
|                   | 1/30/15    | 10,384                  | 3,461                      | 1/31/16                 |
| 3,461             |            |                         | 1/31/17                    |                         |
| 3,462             |            |                         | 1/31/18                    |                         |

## Options Exercised and Stock Vested

The following table sets forth the number of stock option awards exercised and the value realized upon exercise during 2015 for the NEOs, as well as the number of stock awards vested and the value realized upon vesting.

### 2015 Options Exercised and Stock Vested

| Name              | Option Awards                         |                               | Stock Awards                         |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                   | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise | Value Realized on Exercise(1) | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting | Value Realized on Vesting |
| Robert G. Wilmers | -                                     | \$ -                          | 15,114                               | \$ 1,713,185              |
| René F. Jones     | -                                     | \$ -                          | 10,267                               | \$ 1,161,814              |
| Mark J. Czarnecki | -                                     | \$ -                          | 14,582                               | \$ 1,650,099              |
| Kevin J. Pearson  | 21,353                                | \$ 287,846                    | 10,734                               | \$ 1,214,659              |
| Richard S. Gold   | 13,143                                | \$ 222,668                    | 7,357                                | \$ 832,518                |

- (1) Based upon the difference between the closing price of M&T's common stock on the NYSE on the date or dates of exercise and the exercise price or prices for the stock options.

## Pension Benefits

The following table sets forth the present value of the accumulated pension benefits for the NEOs.

### 2015 Pension Benefits(1)

| Name              | Plan Name                       | Number of Years Credited Service(3) | Present Value of Accumulated Benefit | Payments during Last Fiscal Year |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Robert G. Wilmers | Qualified Pension Plan(2)       | 32                                  | \$ 3,722,159                         | \$ -                             |
|                   | Supplemental Pension Plan(2)(4) | 32                                  | 652,474                              | -                                |
| René F. Jones     | Qualified Pension Plan(2)       | 13                                  | \$ 202,832                           | \$ -                             |
| Mark J. Czarnecki | Qualified Pension Plan(2)       | 35                                  | \$ 1,199,329                         | \$ -                             |
|                   | Supplemental Pension Plan(2)(4) | 35                                  | 298,441                              | -                                |
| Kevin J. Pearson  | Qualified Pension Plan(2)       | 26                                  | \$ 672,331                           | \$ -                             |
|                   | Supplemental Pension Plan(2)(4) | 26                                  | 142,208                              | -                                |
| Richard S. Gold   | Qualified Pension Plan(2)       | 26                                  | \$ 622,535                           | \$ -                             |
|                   | Supplemental Pension Plan(2)(4) | 26                                  | 133,319                              | -                                |

- (1) Please refer to footnote (2) to the "2015 Summary Compensation Table" for the assumptions used to calculate the present value of accumulated benefits.
- (2) The Qualified Pension Plan provides tax-qualified pension benefits for a broad base of M&T employees. Effective January 1, 2006, the formula used to calculate benefits under the Qualified Pension Plan and the Supplemental Pension Plan was modified with respect to benefits earned after 2005. Benefits accrued under the prior formula as of December 31, 2005 were frozen and all Qualified Pension Plan participants, including each NEO, were given a one-time election to remain in the Qualified Pension Plan and earn future benefits under a new reduced pension benefit formula, or to retain the frozen benefit in the Qualified Pension Plan and earn future benefits under a new defined contribution program, the Retirement Accumulation Account (the "Qualified RAA"), in which qualifying participants are credited a percentage of total pay based on length of service. Under the current formula, each participant's

retirement benefit equals the sum of (a) the participant's accrued benefit as of December 31, 2005 and (b) for each year of credited service earned after December 31, 2005, the sum of (i) 1% of compensation for the plan year plus (ii) 0.35% of compensation for the plan year in excess of 50% of that year's Social Security wage base. Messrs. Wilmers, Czarnecki, Pearson and Gold elected to remain in the Qualified Pension Plan for periods on and after January 1, 2006. Mr. Jones elected to discontinue his future participation in the Qualified Pension Plan and Supplemental Pension Plan, choosing instead to participate in the Qualified RAA effective January 1, 2006. Mr. Jones has an accrued benefit under the Qualified Pension Plan as of December 31, 2005, but has ceased to earn any benefit accrual service and any further benefit under the Qualified Pension Plan as of January 1, 2006.

- (3) The years of credited service for all of the NEOs are based only on their service while eligible for participation in the Qualified Pension Plan or the prior pension plan of an acquired bank. Generally, a participant must be paid for at least 1,000 hours of work during a plan year to be credited with a year of service for purposes of the Qualified Pension Plan.
- (4) As described in footnote (2) above, effective January 1, 2006, the formula used to calculate benefits under the Qualified Pension Plan and the Supplemental Pension Plan was modified with respect to benefits earned after 2005, and participants were given the opportunity to elect whether to continue participation in the Qualified Pension Plan and the Supplemental Pension Plan. Of the NEOs, Messrs. Wilmers, Czarnecki, Pearson and Gold elected to continue to participate in the revised Qualified Pension Plan and, as such, they continue to be participants in the Supplemental Pension Plan. Mr. Jones elected to discontinue his future participation in the Qualified Pension Plan and Supplemental Pension Plan, choosing instead to participate in the Qualified RAA effective January 1, 2006. M&T maintains a defined contribution nonqualified Retirement Accumulation Account that is designed to provide participants with contributions that cannot be provided under the Qualified Retirement Accumulation Account because of applicable federal income tax limits. As under the Supplemental Pension Plan, creditable compensation under the Supplemental RAA is also limited to \$350,000. Mr. Jones participated in the Supplemental RAA in 2015 and was credited with a contribution for 2015 as reported below under the discussion of 2015 Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plans.

## **Explanation of Pension Benefits Table**

The Pension Benefits Table indicates, for each of the Qualified Pension Plan and the Supplemental Pension Plan, the NEO's number of years of credited service, present value of accumulated benefit and any payments made during the year ended December 31, 2015.

The amounts indicated in the column titled "Present Value of Accumulated Benefit" represent the lump-sum value as of December 31, 2015 of the annual benefit that was earned by the NEOs as of December 31, 2015, assuming payment begins at each executive's normal retirement age, or their current age, if later. The normal retirement age is defined as age 65 in the Qualified Pension Plan and the Supplemental Pension Plan. Certain assumptions were used to determine the present value of accumulated benefits payable at normal retirement age. Those assumptions are described in footnote (2) to the "2015 Summary Compensation Table". Certain material terms of each of the Qualified Pension Plan and the Supplemental Pension Plan are summarized in the footnotes to the Pension Benefits Table and in the narrative below.

## **Qualified Pension Plan**

Benefits under the Qualified Pension Plan are paid over the lifetime of the NEO or the lifetimes of the NEO and a beneficiary, as elected by the NEO. If the NEO is married on the date payments are to begin under the Qualified Pension Plan, payment will be in the form of a joint and 50% survivor annuity with the spouse as beneficiary unless the NEO elects another form of payment with the consent of the spouse. None of the NEOs are eligible to elect to receive the

benefit due under the Qualified Pension Plan in the form of a one-time lump sum payment. If benefits are paid in a form in which a benefit is to be paid to a beneficiary after the death of the NEO, benefits are reduced from the amount payable as a lifetime benefit solely to the NEO in accordance with the actuarial factors that apply to all participants in the Qualified Pension Plan. A participant's benefit under the Qualified Pension Plan is generally payable as an annuity with monthly benefit payments unless the present value of the normal retirement benefit is less than \$5,000. Benefits under the Qualified Pension Plan are funded by an irrevocable, tax-exempt trust. The Qualified Pension Plan benefits of all participants, including those benefits of NEOs, are payable from the assets held by the tax-exempt trust.

Creditable compensation under the Qualified Pension Plan generally includes the compensation reported on Form W-2 in the box for wages, tips and other compensation plus pre-tax salary reduction contributions under the Retirement Savings Plan and the M&T Bank Corporation Flexible Benefits Plan. In calculating a participant's benefit, annual compensation in excess of a limit set annually by the Secretary of the Treasury may not be considered.

A participant is eligible for early retirement under the Qualified Pension Plan if the participant retires before normal retirement age but after attaining age 55 and completing 10 years of service. An early retirement benefit is reduced 4% per year for each year that the benefit commences prior to normal retirement age. At December 31, 2015, Messrs. Jones and Pearson were not eligible for early retirement.

Benefits under the Qualified Pension Plan are 100% vested after an employee has completed at least five years of service, and each NEO is 100% vested in his benefits in the Qualified Pension Plan.

### **Supplemental Pension Plan**

The Supplemental Pension Plan provides a benefit that is equal to the difference between the pension benefit that would be provided under the Qualified Pension Plan if that plan were not subject to certain limits imposed by the Internal Revenue Code, and the benefit actually provided under the Qualified Pension Plan. Creditable compensation that may be considered under the Supplemental Pension Plan formula is limited to \$350,000.

Generally, benefits under the Supplemental Pension Plan are paid over the lifetime of the NEO or the lifetimes of the NEO and a beneficiary, as elected by the NEO. The Supplemental Pension Plan allows a NEO to elect to receive the benefit due under the plan in the form of a one-time lump sum payment. If benefits are paid as a lump sum payment, benefits are adjusted from the amount payable as a lifetime benefit solely to the NEO in accordance with the actuarial factors that apply to all participants in the Qualified Pension Plan.

The pension benefit under the Supplemental Pension Plan is reduced in the same manner as under the Qualified Pension Plan if it begins to be paid before normal retirement age and continues to accrue in the same manner as under the Qualified Pension Plan if it begins to be paid after the normal retirement age.



Service is determined under the Supplemental Pension Plan in the same manner as under the Qualified Pension Plan, as described above. The vesting schedule in the Supplemental Pension Plan is the same as in the Qualified Pension Plan and all of the NEOs are 100% vested in their benefits in the Supplemental Pension Plan.

### Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

The following table sets forth contributions, earnings and year-end balances for 2015 with respect to nonqualified deferred compensation plans for the NEOs.

#### 2015 Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

| Name              | Plan Name           | Executive Contributions in Last FY(1) | Registrant Contributions in Last FY(2) | Aggregate Earnings in Last FY(3) | Aggregate Withdrawals/Distributions | Aggregate Balance at Last FYE(4) |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Robert G. Wilmers | Supplemental 401(k) | \$ 10,500                             | \$ 3,825                               | \$ (8,979)                       | \$ -                                | \$ 719,043                       |
|                   | Supplemental RAA    | -                                     | -                                      | -                                | -                                   | -                                |
|                   | Deferred Bonus Plan | -                                     | -                                      | -                                | -                                   | -                                |
| René F. Jones     | Supplemental 401(k) | \$ 70,000                             | \$ 3,825                               | \$ (5,016)                       | \$ -                                | \$ 342,389                       |
|                   | Supplemental RAA    | -                                     | 4,250                                  | (119)                            | -                                   | 51,279                           |
|                   | Deferred Bonus Plan | -                                     | -                                      | -                                | -                                   | -                                |
| Mark J. Czarnecki | Supplemental 401(k) | \$ 10,500                             | \$ 3,825                               | \$ (942)                         | \$ -                                | \$ 286,273                       |
|                   | Supplemental RAA    | -                                     | -                                      | -                                | -                                   | -                                |
|                   | Deferred Bonus Plan | -                                     | -                                      | -                                | -                                   | -                                |
| Kevin J. Pearson  | Supplemental 401(k) | \$ 10,500                             | \$ 3,825                               | \$ (2,481)                       | \$ -                                | \$ 206,148                       |
|                   | Supplemental RAA    | -                                     | -                                      | -                                | -                                   | -                                |
|                   | Deferred Bonus Plan | -                                     | -                                      | -                                | -                                   | -                                |
| Richard S. Gold   | Supplemental 401(k) | \$ 10,500                             | \$ 3,825                               | \$ (2,966)                       | \$ -                                | \$ 172,219                       |
|                   | Supplemental RAA    | -                                     | -                                      | -                                | -                                   | -                                |
|                   | Deferred Bonus Plan | -                                     | -                                      | (189)                            | 20,106                              | 60,130                           |

- (1) The Supplemental 401(k) contributions were based on the NEOs' deferral elections and the salaries shown in the Summary Compensation Table. The salaries in the Summary Compensation Table include these contributions.
- (2) This column represents M&T matching contributions attributable to contributions made to the Supplemental 401(k) during 2015 by the NEOs and contributions by M&T to the Supplemental RAA attributable to 2015 based on compensation earned and service performed during the year. The contribution by M&T to the Supplemental 401(k) and the Supplemental RAA attributable to 2015 was made after December 31, 2015 and is not reflected in the aggregate year-end balance for each NEO. These values are also reflected in the "All Other Compensation" column of the 2015 Summary Compensation Table.
- (3) This column reflects earnings or losses on plan balances in 2015. Earnings may increase or decrease depending on the performance of the elected investment options. Earnings on these plans are not "above-market" and thus are not reported in the 2015 Summary Compensation Table. Plan balances may be invested in various mutual funds and common stock. Investment returns on those funds and common stock ranged from -9.52% to 11.97% for the year ended December 31, 2015.
- (4) This column represents the year-end balances of the NEOs' nonqualified deferred compensation accounts. These balances include NEOs' and M&T contributions that were included in the Summary Compensation Tables in previous years. Amounts in this column include earnings that were not previously reported in the respective year's Summary Compensation Table because they were not "above-market" earnings.

## Overview of Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plans

M&T maintains two nonqualified deferred compensation plans: the Supplemental Retirement Savings Plan and the M&T Bank Corporation Deferred Bonus Plan. The Deferred Bonus Plan was frozen effective January 1, 2010.

The Supplemental Retirement Savings Plan mirrors the tax-qualified, defined contribution Retirement Savings Plan maintained by M&T in that it consists of two parts: a Supplemental 401(k) Plan and a Supplemental Retirement Accumulation Account Plan. The tax-qualified Retirement Savings Plan provides benefits under both portions up to the limit set by the Internal Revenue Code on compensation that can be recognized under a tax-qualified plan. The Supplemental Retirement Savings Plan provides unfunded, nonqualified benefits to select management based on compensation in excess of the Internal Revenue Code limit for tax-qualified plans up to a maximum creditable compensation level of \$350,000.

Under the tax-qualified 401(k) (or Qualified 401(k) Plan) portion of the Retirement Savings Plan, a participant may elect to contribute up to 50% of creditable plan compensation, in which event, the participant will be credited with a matching employer contribution equal to 100% of contributions that do not exceed 3% of the participant's contributions plus 50% of the contributions that exceed 3% but not 6% of the participant's compensation under the plan. All participants are always 100% vested in all contributions in the Qualified 401(k) Plan. All NEOs participate in the Qualified 401(k) Plan.

Under the tax-qualified Retirement Accumulation Account ("Qualified RAA") of the Retirement Savings Plan, a participant will be credited with an employer contribution based on the participant's years of service recognized under the plan for each year in which the participant is credited with at least 1,000 hours of service and is employed by M&T on December 31st of such year (or for such years where employment was terminated during the year due to retirement, death or disability). Benefits under the Qualified RAA are subject to a five-year cliff vesting schedule. As explained in the discussion of the 2015 Pension Benefits table, Mr. Jones is the only NEO who participates in the Qualified RAA, and he is fully vested in the benefits under the plan based on his years of service.

The Deferred Bonus Plan was frozen effective January 1, 2010 and does not allow any new deferrals of bonuses into that plan. Prior to January 1, 2010, the Deferred Bonus Plan allowed select members of management and highly compensated employees of M&T to defer all or a portion of an annual bonus they received under an M&T bonus or incentive plan.

### ***Supplemental Retirement Savings Plan - Supplemental 401(k) Plan***

The Supplemental 401(k) Plan provides unfunded, nonqualified benefits to select members of management and highly compensated employees of M&T. All of the NEOs participate in the Supplemental 401(k) Plan.

For a given year, a participant may elect to contribute up to 50% of creditable plan compensation and the participant must elect the contribution percentage before the beginning of the year. A participant who contributes to the Supplemental 401(k) Plan for a given year is credited with a matching employer contribution under the Supplemental 401(k) Plan determined under the same matching formula as in the Qualified 401(k) Plan, which generally provides for a match equal to 100% of contributions that do not exceed 3% of the participant's compensation plus 50% of the contributions that exceed 3% but not 6% of the participant's compensation. Creditable compensation under the Supplemental 401(k) Plan is defined in the same way as under the Qualified Pension Plan, but it includes amounts deferred by participants under the Supplemental 401(k) Plan and includes compensation credited under the tax-qualified 401(k) plan, the Retirement Savings Plan. The maximum creditable compensation for the plan in any year is \$350,000.

A participant is always 100% vested in both his or her own contributions and the employer matching contributions, and all earnings on both types of contributions under the Supplemental 401(k) Plan. The plan provides that a participant may elect to receive benefits at a specified age or date, upon separation from service, at death or disability, or at the earliest of these events. A participant may elect to receive benefits in the form of a single lump sum or in annual installments payable over 5 or 10 years. Elections are made with respect to each year's contribution to the Supplemental 401(k) Plan prior to the beginning of each year. All payments from the Supplemental 401(k) Plan are made in the form of cash.

### ***Supplemental Retirement Savings Plan - Supplemental Retirement Accumulation Account Plan***

The Supplemental Retirement Accumulation Account (the "Supplemental RAA") portion of the Supplemental Retirement Savings Plan (the "Supplemental RSP") is designed to provide participants with benefits that cannot be provided under our qualified plans as a result of limitations imposed by the Internal Revenue Code. Mr. Jones is the only NEO who participates in the Supplemental RAA.

For a given year, the Supplemental RAA credits a contribution on behalf of a participant that is equal to the difference between (1) the contribution that would be provided on plan compensation under the Qualified RAA if the Internal Revenue Code limit did not exist up to the Supplemental RSP Plan compensation limit of \$350,000, and (2) the contribution actually provided under the Qualified RAA. Mr. Jones was credited with \$4,250 for the 2015 plan year. The book reserve accounts attributable to Supplemental RAA contributions are subject to the same vesting schedule as the accounts in the Qualified RAA, and Mr. Jones is fully vested in his Supplemental RAA account. Benefits under the Supplemental RAA and the Supplemental 401(k) are payable in the first quarter of 2016. Service in the Supplemental RAA is determined in the same manner as under the Qualified RAA.

### ***Deferred Bonus Plan***

Through December 31, 2009, the Deferred Bonus Plan allowed select members of management and highly compensated employees of M&T to defer all or a portion of an annual bonus award they received under an M&T bonus or incentive plan. Deferrals under the Deferred Bonus Plan were discontinued as of December 31, 2009, although Mr. Gold has an account in the Deferred Bonus Plan as of December 31, 2015 resulting from prior years' deferrals, and he received a cash distribution under the plan in accordance with an election made under the plan in 1998.

When the Deferred Bonus Plan was active, an eligible employee could elect to defer a specific percentage or a dollar amount of the award, with a minimum deferral of \$10,000. A participant could elect to defer such amount for a period of 5 to 20 years and could elect to receive the deferred account balance in a single lump sum or in annual installments over 5 or 10 years. If the participant's employment ends prior to the time all deferrals have been distributed, the deferral period ends and payments commence in the form elected. Participants are always 100% vested in their deferred account balance.

### **Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control**

The following table indicates the potential post-employment payments and benefits for the NEOs in the event that either of the following had occurred on December 31, 2015: (i) an involuntary termination of employment or (ii) a change-in-control event accompanied by an involuntary termination of employment.

#### **2015 Post-Employment Benefits(1)**

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Severance Pay(2)</b> | <b>Health Benefit Coverage</b> | <b>Value of Equity Awards</b> | <b>Total Benefits Upon Involuntary Termination</b> | <b>Total Benefits Upon Involuntary Termination Preceded by Change-in-Control Event</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Robert G. Wilmers | \$ 1,900,000            | \$ 40,274                      | \$ 5,035,756                  | \$ 1,940,274                                       | \$ 6,976,030   |
| René F. Jones     | \$ 1,400,000            | \$ 16,722                      | \$ 3,490,226                  | \$ 1,416,722                                       | \$ 4,906,948   |
| Mark J. Czarnecki | \$ 1,800,000            | \$ 14,623                      | \$ 5,005,219                  | \$ 1,814,623                                       | \$ 6,819,842   |
| Kevin J. Pearson  | \$ 1,350,000            | \$ 24,906                      | \$ 3,497,376                  | \$ 1,374,906                                       | \$ 4,872,282   |
| Richard S. Gold   | \$ 1,350,000            | \$ 16,793                      | \$ 2,787,867                  | \$ 1,366,793                                       | \$ 4,154,660   |

- (1) In the event of an involuntary termination of employment, NEOs are entitled to the accelerated vesting of equity awards only if such involuntary termination is preceded by a change-in-control event.
- (2) Assumes the NEO would receive the maximum potential severance of 104 weeks of cash base salary.

## Severance Pay Plan

M&T maintains the Severance Pay Plan which is a broad-based, tiered severance plan that provides eligible employees with post-employment severance payments and the continuation of certain employee benefits when a “Qualifying Event” (defined as any permanent, involuntary termination of a participant’s active employment as a result of a reduction in force, restructuring, outsourcing or elimination of position) occurs. The amount of severance an employee is eligible to receive is based upon the employee’s position and years of service. Each NEO participates in the plan. Upon the occurrence of a Qualifying Event, each NEO will be entitled to:

- the continuation of his cash base salary for at least 52 weeks, but in no event more than 104 weeks as determined at the time of the Qualifying Event; and
- the continuation of certain benefits during the period in which severance payments are made, for those benefits that the NEO has elected at the time of the Qualifying Event, which may include medical, dental, vision and life insurance, and flexible spending accounts, provided the NEO continues to make contributions at the active employee rate.

## Accelerated Vesting of Equity Awards

With the exception of the performance-based equity awards granted to Messrs. Wilmers, Czarnecki and Pearson in 2014 and 2015 and to Mr. Gold in 2015, all employees, including the NEOs, would be immediately vested in any unvested equity awards that were granted under M&T’s various equity compensation plans at the time of change-in-control, death, disability or retirement. Unvested shares of performance-based equity awards granted to Messrs. Wilmers, Czarnecki and Pearson in 2014 and 2015 and to Mr. Gold in 2015 will vest automatically at change-in-control, death or disability, but will not accelerate and vest after retirement until such time as the performance requirement is deemed to have been met for the year in which the retirement occurred. See also footnote (2) to the table set forth under the section titled “2015 Grants of Plan-Based Awards” for vesting schedule restrictions.

**PROPOSAL 3****PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP AS THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM OF M&T BANK CORPORATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016**

On February 16, 2016, the Audit Committee appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, certified public accountants, as the independent registered public accounting firm of M&T for the year ending December 31, 2016, a capacity in which it has served since 1984.

Although shareholder approval of the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm is not required by law, M&T believes that it is desirable to request that the shareholders ratify the Audit Committee's appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as M&T's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2016. In the event that the shareholders fail to ratify the appointment, the Audit Committee will reconsider this appointment and make such a determination as it believes to be in M&T's and its shareholders' best interests. Even if the appointment is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if the Audit Committee determines that such a change would be in M&T's and its shareholders' best interests.

Representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting. The representatives may, if they wish, make a statement and, it is expected, will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP AS THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM OF M&T BANK CORPORATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016.**

The following is a summary of the fees billed to M&T by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for professional services rendered during 2015 and 2014, which are categorized in accordance with the SEC's rules as follows:

**Fees to Independent Auditors**

|                    | 2015         | 2014         |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Audit Fees         | \$ 3,515,350 | \$ 3,215,496 |
| Audit-Related Fees | 948,369      | 925,165      |
| Tax Fees           | 89,500       | 87,000       |
| All Other Fees     | 7,158        | 109,136      |
| Total              | \$ 4,560,377 | \$ 4,336,797 |

## **Audit Fees**

Audit fees consist of fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for services rendered for the audit of M&T's annual consolidated financial statements as of and for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, for its review of M&T's quarterly consolidated financial statements during 2015 and 2014, and for other audit and attest services in connection with statutory and regulatory filings as of and for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

## **Audit-Related Fees**

Audit-related fees consist of fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for audit-related services, including audits of employee benefit plans and other attest services that are not required by statute or regulation for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014. Of the audit-related fees billed for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, all services were pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

## **Tax Fees**

Tax fees consist of fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for tax compliance, planning and consulting for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014. Of the tax fees billed for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, all services were pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

## **All Other Fees**

All other fees for the year ended December 31, 2015 consisted of fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP primarily for research software licensing. All other fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for the year ended December 31, 2014 consisted primarily of internal audit risk assessment services and research software licensing. All fees billed in this category for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 were pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

In addition to the above services, for the year ended December 31, 2015, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed \$65,000 for a mortgage servicing report that was reimbursed by an outside mortgage company, and directly billed certain investment funds sponsored by a subsidiary of M&T a total of \$235,180 for audit services and Form 5500 preparation fees. Likewise, for the year ended December 31, 2014, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed \$40,000 for a mortgage servicing report that was reimbursed by an outside mortgage company, and directly billed certain investment funds sponsored by a subsidiary of M&T, a total of \$186,480 for audit services and Form 5500 preparation fees.

The Audit Committee has determined that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's provision of professional services is compatible with maintaining its independence. No fees were billed and no services were provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP during 2015 and 2014 for financial information systems design and implementation.

No other fees were billed for any other services and no other services were provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

## **Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Permissible Non-Audit Services of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Beginning with the year ended December 31, 2003, M&T instituted a policy that the Audit Committee pre-approve all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm. These services may include audit services, audit-related services, tax services and other services. Pre-approval is generally detailed as to the particular service or category of services and is generally subject to a specific budget range. The independent registered public accounting firm and management are required to periodically report to the Audit Committee regarding the extent of services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm in accordance with this pre-approval policy, and the fees for the services performed to date. The Audit Committee may also pre-approve additional services on a case-by-case basis. In the period between meetings of the Audit Committee, the Chair of the Audit Committee is authorized to pre-approve such services on behalf of the Audit Committee provided that such pre-approval is reported to the Audit Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Before appointing PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the Audit Committee considered PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's qualifications as an independent registered public accounting firm. This included a review of the qualifications of the engagement team, the quality control procedures the firm has established, any issues raised by the most recent quality control review of the firm, as well as its reputation for integrity and competence in the fields of accounting and auditing. The Audit Committee's review also included matters required to be considered under the SEC's rules on auditor independence, including the nature and extent of non-audit services, to ensure that the auditor's independence will not be impaired. The Audit Committee has considered and determined that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's provision of non-audit services to M&T during 2015 is compatible with and did not impair PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's independence.

## **Report of the Audit Committee**

The members of the Audit Committee are independent as that term is defined in the listing standards of the NYSE. The Audit Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors. A copy of such charter can be accessed on M&T's website at [www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm](http://www.ir.mandtbank.com/corpgov.cfm). During 2015, the Audit Committee met six times, and held discussions with management and representatives of its independent registered public accounting firm consistent with its responsibilities under its charter.

Management is responsible for the preparation of M&T's consolidated financial statements and their assessment of the design and effectiveness of M&T's internal control over financial reporting. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing an independent audit of M&T's consolidated financial statements and opining on the effectiveness of those controls in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and issuing its reports thereon. As provided in its charter, the Audit Committee's responsibilities include monitoring and overseeing these processes.

In discharging its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed M&T's 2015 audited consolidated financial statements with management and its independent registered public accounting firm and has reviewed and discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm all communications required by standards of the



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PCAOB, including the matters described in PCAOB Auditing Standard No. 16, (*Communication with Audit Committees*), which include, among other items, matters related to the conduct of the audit of M&T's financial statements.

The Audit Committee has also received the written disclosures and the letter from M&T's independent registered public accounting firm as required by the PCAOB's Ethics and Independence Rule 3526 (*Communication with Audit Committees Concerning Independence*) and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm their independence.

Based on these reviews and discussions with management and the independent registered public accounting firm, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited consolidated financial statements and report on management's assessment of the design and effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting be included in M&T's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 filed with the SEC on February 19, 2016. The Audit Committee also selected the independent registered public accounting firm.

This report was adopted on February 16, 2016 by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors:

C. Angela Bontempo, Chair  
Richard A. Grossi  
Patrick W.E. Hodgson  
Richard G. King  
Herbert L. Washington

In accordance with and to the extent permitted by applicable law or regulation, the information contained in the Report of the Audit Committee of M&T Bank Corporation shall not be incorporated by reference into any future filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act and shall not be deemed to be "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the SEC under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act.

## **NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 726(d) OF THE NEW YORK BUSINESS CORPORATION LAW**

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On June 30, 2015, M&T renewed its directors' and officers' liability insurance policy until June 30, 2016. The premium, including commissions, for this renewal is \$2,221,441. The primary policy is issued by U.S. Specialty Insurance Company and covers all directors and officers of M&T and its subsidiaries.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

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The Board of Directors of M&T is not aware of any matters not referred to in this proxy statement that will be presented for action at the Annual Meeting. If any other matters properly come before the meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the enclosed proxy to vote the shares represented thereby in accordance with their best judgment.



**IMPORTANT ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION**

**Electronic Voting Instructions**

**Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!**

Instead of mailing your proxy, you may choose one of the voting methods outlined below to vote your proxy.

YOUR CONTROL NUMBER IS LOCATED BELOW IN THE TITLE BAR.

**Proxies submitted via the Internet or telephone must be received by 1:00 a.m. (EDT), on April 19, 2016.**

**Vote via the Internet**

- Go to [www.investorvote.com/MTB](http://www.investorvote.com/MTB)
- Or scan the QR code with your smartphone
- Follow the steps outlined on the secure website

**Vote via the telephone**

- Call toll free 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) within the USA, US territories and Canada on a touch tone telephone
- Follow the instructions provided by the recorded message

Using a **black ink** pen, mark your votes with an **X** as shown in this example. Please do not write outside the designated areas.

**Annual Meeting Proxy Card**

q IF YOU HAVE NOT VOTED VIA THE INTERNET OR TELEPHONE, FOLD ALONG THE PERFORATION, DETACH AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. q

**A Proposals — The Board of Directors of M&T Bank Corporation recommends a vote FOR the following proposals.**

1. TO ELECT 16 DIRECTORS FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS AND UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS HAVE BEEN ELECTED AND QUALIFIED.

|                                  | For                      | Withhold                 |                          | For                      | Withhold                 |                            | For                      | Withhold                 |   |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 01 - Brent D. Baird              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 02 - C. Angela Bontempo  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 03 - Robert T. Brady       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | + |
| 04 - T. Jefferson Cunningham III | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 05 - Mark J. Czarnecki   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 06 - Gary N. Geisel        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
| 07 - Richard A. Grossi           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 08 - John D. Hawke, Jr.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 09 - Patrick W.E. Hodgson  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
| 10 - Richard G. King             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 - Newton P.S. Merrill | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 - Melinda R. Rich       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
| 13 - Robert E. Sadler, Jr.       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 - Denis J. Salamone   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 - Herbert L. Washington | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
| 16 - Robert G. Wilmers           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          |                          |                          |                            |                          |                          |   |

**Meeting Attendance**  
Mark the box to the right if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting.

- |  |                          |                          |                          |  |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 2. TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION OF M&T BANK CORPORATION'S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.   | For                      | Against                  | Abstain                  |  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 3. TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP AS THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM OF M&T BANK CORPORATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |

**Materials Preference**  
Mark the box to the right if you prefer to access your Annual Reports and Proxy Statements online via the Internet instead of receiving them in the mail.

**IF VOTING BY MAIL, YOU MUST COMPLETE SECTION A ON THIS SIDE AND SECTION C ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS CARD. COMPLETE SECTION B, IF APPLICABLE. PLEASE SIGN AND DATE ON THE REVERSE SIDE.**



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## YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT!

Proxy materials are available online at:  
<http://ir.mandtbank.com/proxy.cfm>

q IF YOU HAVE NOT VOTED VIA THE INTERNET OR TELEPHONE, FOLD ALONG THE PERFORATION, DETACH AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. q

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### PROXY — M&T BANK CORPORATION

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#### Annual Meeting of Shareholders — April 19, 2016, 11:00 a.m. (EDT)

#### THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The undersigned hereby appoints Richard R. LeFrois, Anthony J. Sartor and Mark R. Stebbins as Proxies and authorizes said Proxies, or any one of them, to represent and to vote all of the shares of common stock of M&T Bank Corporation which the undersigned may be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on the 10th floor of One M&T Plaza in Buffalo, New York on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. (EDT), and any adjournments thereof (i) as designated on the proposals set forth on the reverse side of this card and (ii) at the discretion of said Proxies, or any one of them, on such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

IF PROPERLY EXECUTED, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED AS SPECIFIED OR, IF NOT SPECIFIED, WILL BE VOTED FOR ALL PROPOSALS.

PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND MAIL THIS PROXY CARD PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE OR VOTE VIA THE INTERNET OR TELEPHONE.

#### **B** Change of Address

Please print new address below.

#### **C** Authorized Signatures — This section must be completed for your vote to be counted. — Date and Sign Below

PLEASE SIGN EXACTLY AS YOUR NAME(S) APPEAR(S) ON THIS CARD. When signing as an attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give full title. If a corporation or partnership, write in the full corporate or partnership name and have the President or other authorized officer sign. If shares are held jointly, each holder should sign, but only one signature is required.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy) — Please print date below.

Signature 1 — Please keep signature within the box.

Signature 2 — Please keep signature within the box.

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